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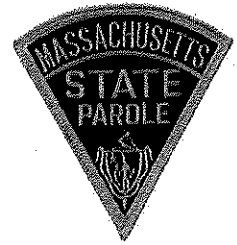
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MATTHEW ST. FRANCIS
W100949

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 10, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: January 30, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in four years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 22, 2012, in Worcester Superior Court, Matthew St. Francis pleaded guilty to 18 counts of rape of a child, 16 counts of depicting a minor in a state of sexual conduct; one count of indecent assault and battery on a child; five counts of photographing an unsuspecting nude person; three counts of posing a child in a state of nudity; and one count of possessing child pornography. Mr. St. Francis was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole on the child rape convictions, to be served concurrently with sentences of: 15 to 20 years in state prison for depicting a minor in sexual conduct and posing a child in a state of nudity convictions, 9 to 10 years in state prison for the indecent assault and battery conviction, 4 to 5 years in state prison for the possession of child pornography convictions, and 2.5 years in the House of Correction for photographing an unsuspecting nude person convictions.

On October 10, 2024, Matthew St. Francis appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Mr. St. Francis' October 10, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: In May 2009, Matthew St. Francis' teenage step-daughter informed police that she had observed child pornography on Mr. St. Francis' computer, and that she had found a hidden video camera in her bedroom. The Southbridge Police Department executed a search warrant at his home and recovered the hidden video camera in his step-


daughter's bedroom. The police also found on Mr. St. Francis' computer: numerous images depicting known child pornography, digital images and videos of his nude step-daughter when she was in her bedroom, and 13 videos of a young girl (between the ages of 9 and 12 years of age) being raped by an adult male. The girl was Mr. St. Francis' biological daughter, who informed police that Mr. St. Francis had regularly raped her orally, vaginally, and/or anally over a two year period during her bi-monthly visits to his home. Mr. St. Francis' step-daughter also informed police that, after providing her with alcohol or pills, Mr. St. Francis had vaginally raped her when she was between the ages of 13 or 14, and had touched her breasts on two occasions. Mr. St. Francis, in a post-arrest statement to police, admitted that he had installed the camera in his step-daughter's bedroom to photograph her in a state of nudity. He also admitted to the possession of child pornography.

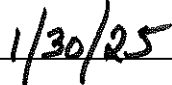
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an incarcerated individual's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the incarcerated individual's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Matthew St. Francis made his initial appearance before the Board on multiple sex offense convictions. Mr. St. Francis presented with minimal insight into his behavior. While he has no history of d-reports and completed SOTP in July 2024, the Board finds parole at this time is incompatible with the welfare of society. The gravity of his crimes, as well as the repeated criminal behavior, is very concerning. The Board, additionally, has concerns regarding his credibility. Given his only recent completion of Sex Offender Treatment, the Board finds additional time is needed for Mr. St. Francis to continue addressing his criminal behaviors.

Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Nathaniel Boudoin opposed parole.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above-referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date