



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

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*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MICHAEL MONTEL**  
**W51627**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** August 20, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** January 20, 2026

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz<sup>1</sup>

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to CRJ or LTRP after ninety days total in lower security.<sup>2</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On December 11, 1991, in Hampden Superior Court, Michael Montel pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree for the death of Marianne Rose Montel. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2006 and review hearings in 2009, 2012, 2017, and 2022.

On August 20, 2025, Mr. Montel appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Chetan Tiwari. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Montel's August 20, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On April 19, 1991, 29-year-old Michael Montel murdered his estranged wife, 29-year-old Marianne Montel. Six weeks prior to the murder, Mr. Montel and

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<sup>1</sup> Board members Alexander and Ortiz were not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote. Board member Coleman was present for the hearing but departed the Board prior to the decision.

<sup>2</sup> Two Board members voted to deny parole with a review in two years from the date of the hearing.

Marianne had separated due to his violent behavior, which included threatening to kill her, physically assaulting her, and choking her.

On April 17, 1991, Mr. Montel broke into Marianne's apartment, assaulted her with two knives, and forced her to remain in her bedroom. Their children were in the apartment during these events. The next day, Marianne took the children and went to stay at a friend's house. On April 19, 1991, Marianne was on her way to drop the children at school, when she stopped at her apartment to pick up her son's knapsack. Mr. Montel was not supposed to be there. When they arrived, Marianne told her son to get the knapsack while she used the bathroom.

Mr. Montel, however, had entered the apartment through the back door and instructed his son to wait in the car. Mr. Montel then proceeded to the bathroom and fatally stabbed Marianne with a fishing knife. After the murder, Mr. Montel went to the car, told the children that their mother was not feeling well, and then dropped them off at school. Later that morning, Mr. Montel went to the Springfield Police Department and told them that he thought he killed his wife.

**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 inmate'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 inmate'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 inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Mr. Montel appeared before the Board for the sixth time. He has been incarcerated for thirty-five years. He currently is low on the LS/CMI risk assessment tool. He has been disciplinary report free since 2009. He has completed multiple programs since the last hearing including Alternatives to Violence and Family Violence Education. Mr. Montel has multiple medical conditions. The Board reviewed the report of social worker Kate Barry regarding Mr. Montel's re-entry needs. The Board considered the testimony of Mr. Montel's family and friends in support of parole, as well as testimony from Marianne's family members in opposition. The Board also considered opposition testimony from Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Lee Baker. The Board concludes that Michael Montel has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for 2 weeks; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or at PO's discretion; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victims' family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Long Term Residential Program or CRJ.

*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.*

  
Angelo Gomez Jr., Chair

January 20, 2026  
Date