



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MICHAEL MORAN
W89858

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 8, 2026

DATE OF DECISION: April 22, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review 2 years from the date of the hearing. May put in for a reconsideration if completes family violence program before 2 years.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On October 29, 2003, following a jury trial in Plymouth County Superior Court, Michael Moran was convicted of murder in the second degree for the death of Viktoria Moran. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2022 and a review hearing in 2025.

On January 8, 2026, Mr. Moran appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Moran's January 8, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 5, 2003, 21-year-old Michael Moran was living with his girlfriend and their two children. On that date, the children's mother took their older daughter to the doctor and, at Mr. Moran's insistence, left their seven-week-old daughter, Viktoria, in his care. Upon return, Viktoria's mother checked on her daughter, who appeared to be fine. Later that evening, however, Viktoria stopped breathing. Paramedics arrived and transported Viktoria to the hospital, where she died. During questioning, Mr. Moran told police that he "slammed" Viktoria into her crib and her head hit the crib railing.

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 1 year. One Board Member voted to grant parole.

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: This was Mr. Moran’s 3rd appearance before the Board. Since the last hearing he did engage in recommended domestic violence treatment; however, this was via correspondence courses. The Board remains concerned that he has not benefited to the extent the Board expected. The Board had previously recommended he transfer to a facility that offers in person family violence program, he may want to pursue that option. The Board’s concerns were illustrated further via victim testimony. Mr. Moran has remained sober and disciplinary report free since last hearing. The Board again reconsidered the expert forensic evaluation by Dr. DiCataldo (2021). He is encouraged to review that report again as the Board finds his concerns and recommendations to be relevant. The Board considered the testimony of Kerry Burke, LICSW, in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of two of the victim’s family members, and Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Arne Hantsen, in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Michael Moran has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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

April 22, 2026
Date