



Charles D. Baker  
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Lieutenant Governor

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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

Kevin Keefe  
Executive Director

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**RANDY WILLIAMS**

**W67326**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** September 13, 2022

**DATE OF DECISION:** December 12, 2022

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On November 10, 1999, in Middlesex Superior Court, Mr. Williams pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 19-year-old Helena Gardner and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. He was also convicted of kidnapping and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon for which he was sentenced to two concurrent terms of seven to eight years in state prison.

Mr. Williams appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on September 13, 2022. He was represented by Attorney Justin Dreschler. Mr. Williams was denied parole at his 2012 initial hearing and after his 2020 review hearing. He postponed his 2017 review hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Williams' September 13, 2022, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.

Reserve to LTRP after eighteen months in lower security. On March 25, 1997, Mr. Williams and two other individuals kidnapped and killed 19-year-old Helena Gardner. The Board considered the expert evaluation of Dr. DiCataldo who described him as at low risk to reoffend. He has been in the RTU for nine years and has benefited from the program. He has completed numerous programs to address anger management, emotional awareness, violence reduction,

and substance abuse. He has been compliant with mental health needs. He has family support. He incorporated the Board's prior recommendations by engaging insignificant rehabilitative programming and maintaining a positive adjustment. The Board notes he has developed empathy throughout his incarceration, especially through his work as a wheelchair pusher. The Board finds a longer stepdown is appropriate given Mr. Williams' lengthy period of incarceration and particular needs.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Williams' institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Williams' risk of recidivism. Applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Williams' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Randy Williams is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to LTRP; Waive work for program; Curfew at PO's discretion; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication; 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 victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling; Mandatory – sign releases and comply with mental health treatment.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.*

/s/ Pamela Murphy p.p. Courtney Doherty  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/12/22  
Date