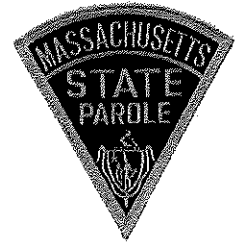




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RICHARD McWILLIAMS
W46442

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **April 10, 2025**

DATE OF DECISION: **September 8, 2025**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 5 years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On May 8, 1989, in Suffolk Superior Court, Richard McWilliams pleaded guilty to 54 counts of rape of a child under 16 years of age. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole on six of the offenses. The remaining counts were placed on file. On December 7, 1989, he was convicted in Plymouth Superior Court of attempted kidnapping and received a concurrent 3-to-5-year sentence. In addition, on or about May 16, 1990, Mr. McWilliams was convicted in Federal District Court of illegally transporting a minor over state lines for the purposes of sex. He received a sentence of 9 years and 7 months. This sentence was completed on July 16, 1997. Parole was denied on his life sentence following an initial hearing in 2019.²

On April 10, 2025, Richard McWilliams appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Michael Phelan. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Richard McWilliams' April 10, 2025, hearing.

¹ Former Chair Hurley participated in the hearing on this matter but departed the Board prior to the decision.

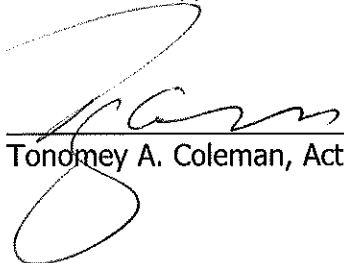
² Mr. McWilliams was initially eligible for parole in 2003, but he postponed his 2003, 2009, and 2014 hearings. He also postponed his review hearing in 2024.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: Over a period of several years, 30-year-old Richard McWilliams performed various acts of sexual intercourse on his daughters and nieces. The children were as young as four and five-years-old when the acts occurred. Mr. McWilliams photographed himself while engaged in these sexual acts with the children. The photographs were discovered under the seat of Mr. McWilliams' car by a mechanic, who was repairing his car. They were turned over to police, and Mr. McWilliams fully admitted to his conduct. At the time, there were other charges of similar conduct pending in Essex and Plymouth Counties, as well as in Maine. The charges in Plymouth County include attempting to abduct a child in a shopping mall.

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 (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. McWilliams has not completed Sex Offender Treatment. He has not engaged in rehabilitative programming. He has not pursued educational or vocational opportunities in the last 10 years. He is high risk on the LSCMI risk assessment tool. Mr. McWilliams does not exhibit empathy or insight into his actions. The Board considered the nature and circumstances of the offenses, which involved multiple victims. The Board considered testimony from three victims in opposition to parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Suffolk County ADA Montez Haywood, who spoke in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. McWilliams 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.



Tonomey A. Coleman, Acting Chair

Date 9/8/25