



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**RICHARD SEYMOUR**  
**W42787**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**            **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:**        **August 21, 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 denied with a review in 1 year due to split decision.<sup>2</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On September 23, 1986, in Middlesex Superior Court, Richard Seymour pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of his son, Patrick Seymour. Mr. Seymour also pleaded guilty to three counts of kidnapping, as well as three counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. A sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole was imposed on Mr. Seymour for the murder of his son. He was also sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 5 years, and not less than 4 years, for each of his convictions of kidnapping and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. All terms of imprisonment imposed on Mr. Seymour were ordered to run concurrently with his life sentence. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2001, and after his review hearings in 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021, and 2024.

On August 21, 2025, Mr. Seymour appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by two student attorneys from the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project under the

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<sup>1</sup> Board Member Ortiz was 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> Three Board Members voted to grant parole to Interstate Compact, and three Board Members vote to deny parole with a review in 2 years, resulting in a split decision.

supervision of Attorney John Fitzpatrick. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Seymour's August 21, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** Patrick Seymour (age 18), was beaten to death on January 20, 1986, by his father, Richard Seymour (age 36), in the family's Billerica residence. Mr. Seymour killed his son in a sustained and vicious attack that escalated from an apparently routine disagreement over the use of a vehicle. Mr. Seymour used his fists, a propane gas tank, and a hammer to beat his son to death. Crime scene and autopsy evidence showed that Mr. Seymour struck Patrick with the gas tank at least three times in the back of the head, while Patrick was either on his knees or lying on the ground. Mr. Seymour inflicted the hammer blows with such force that he broke through his son's skull and penetrated his brain. Mr. Seymour then tied Patrick's hands and legs, dragged him behind a workbench, and covered him with blankets and boxes. The evidence indicates that Patrick was still alive, albeit dying, when Mr. Seymour bound and dragged him. Mr. Seymour then showered and changed his clothes.

Mr. Seymour's wife, teenage daughter, and a female friend arrived home approximately two hours after the murder. Mr. Seymour's daughter discovered the victim's body. With a large kitchen knife in hand, Mr. Seymour threatened the three women. He chased them, physically assaulted them, and then tied them up. He stuffed socks in the mouths of his daughter and her friend. He held the knife up to his daughter's throat and threatened to kill her. He proceeded to cut his wife with the knife. Mr. Seymour fled the scene, only after he realized that the two teenage girls had freed themselves and escaped. He was apprehended shortly thereafter.

**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. Seymour presented for his seventh hearing. He was back before the Board on a reconsideration, which was a split vote. He is currently 75-years-old and has been incarcerated for 39 years. The Board's most recent concerns focused on his continued need for Domestic Violence and Victim Impact treatment. Some Board Members are of the opinion that Mr. Seymour has benefitted from his participation in additional programming to address these need areas; however, a consensus was not reached. Mr. Seymour has support out of state, as he stated in fairness to his family, he would relocate in an effort to cause less harm. Mr. Seymour completed his master's degree and has employment skills. Mr. Seymour's supports include an individual who has experience with needs of individuals who have served long-term incarceration. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from a friend of Mr. Seymour's. The Board also considered the testimony of Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Adrienne Lynch in opposition to parole. Mr. Seymour will be seen in one year as a result of a split vote.

*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