



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION
In the Matter of

RONALD BONNOYER
W46790

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: September 30, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: February 12, 2026

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to Stable Start/Moving Forward Sponsored-based Housing Program at Community Compass/Open Sky Community Services upon approval of home plan.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On July 11, 1989, in Hampden Superior Court, Ronald Bonnoyer pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree for the death of Jean Thibault. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Bonnoyer postponed his initial hearing in 2003, waived his appearance in 2004, postponed his hearing in 2009, waived his appearance in both 2014 and 2019, and postponed his hearing in 2024.

On September 30, 2025, Mr. Bonnoyer appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Richard Goldman. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Bonnoyer's September 30, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On Thursday September 8, 1998, the Agawam Police Department received a report about a missing child, 18-month-old Jean Thibault. Officers responded to High Street in Agawam and spoke with the mother of the missing child, H.T.,¹ who stated that her child was last in the care and custody of her live-in boyfriend, Ronald Bonnoyer (age 31). When officers spoke to Mr. Bonnoyer about the child's whereabouts, he said that someone came into the apartment and took the child. Officers observed no signs of forced entry.

¹ The names of civilians are withheld.

H.T. explained that she put her son to bed at around 7 p.m. the night before. She left the apartment approximately two hours later to get Mr. Bonnoyer alcohol, at his request. When she returned a half hour later, Mr. Bonnoyer was on the phone with his ex-wife. H.T. overheard Mr. Bonnoyer say, "If you ever needed to do anything for me, pray for me now. I need a miracle." He also stated that he "was going to be gone tomorrow," and that he "was going to do it tomorrow." On the morning of September 8, H.T. still had not seen her son, believing him to be asleep. Mr. Bonnoyer asked H.T. to get him more alcohol. When she returned from the package store at about 9:30 a.m., H.T. asked Mr. Bonnoyer if Jean was still sleeping, and he stated that he was. She eventually went in to check on the child only to find that he was not there. When she asked the location of Jean, Mr. Bonnoyer changed his story several times. He suggested that Jean was still in his room or that the kids were playing hide and seek. He then said he sold the child for \$10,000. H.T. screamed and yelled at Mr. Bonnoyer to no avail, eventually leaving the home to report her child missing.

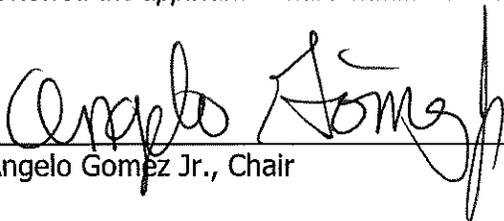
When the responding officers began to search the area, they located the child's body inside a trash bag in a nearby dumpster. The cause of death was later determined to be blunt force trauma. Mr. Bonnoyer was subsequently arrested for the murder of Jean.

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. Bonnoyer is 68-years-old and has been incarcerated for 37 years. He has postponed or waived his prior hearings. Mr. Bonnoyer has multiple health issues. He has been sober for 32 years. He has minimal disciplinary reports, and the last one was over 20 years ago. He earned his bachelor's degree from Boston University, while incarcerated. He has taken accountability for his actions and presented with insight into the causative factors of his criminogenic behaviors. The Board considered the evaluation and testimony of Dr. Herzog. The Board also considered the testimony of Hampden County ADA Lee Baker. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Ronald Bonnoyer has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks or program; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM for 6 months; 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 victim(s)' family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Residential: Stable Start Moving Forward/Housing; Mandatory: Must engage Open Sky Re-entry Services.

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

February 12, 2026

Date