



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STEVEN CORREIA
W118034

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 25, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: July 29, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,¹ James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 4 years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On February 6, 1990, following a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Steven Correia was convicted of aggravated rape.³ He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.⁴ On that same date, he was also convicted of kidnapping and was sentenced to 8-10 years to be served concurrently.⁵

On March 25, 2025, Steven Correia appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by student attorneys Emily Saulnier and Michal Yan from BC Law School under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Steven Correia's March 25, 2025, hearing.

¹ Chair Hurley participated in the vote on this matter prior her departure from the Board.

² One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 3 years.

³ Mr. Correia was on escape status at the time of the governing offense.

⁴ This sentence was ordered to run from and after the aggregate of all sentences on commitment number W38334.

⁵ Mr. Correia completed his sentence (W38344) on February 1, 2024.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On February 12, 1986, in New Bedford, 30-year-old Steven Correia raped a woman at knifepoint.⁶

Around midnight, on February 12, 1986, a woman pulled into a parking space near her grandmother's apartment in New Bedford. As she opened her car door, a man with a knife approached her. He forced his way into the car, grabbed her hair, and put a knife to her throat. He then ordered her to start the car and drive down Highland Street and park near the overpass. He made her shut the car off and get in the passenger seat. Mr. Correia then pushed up the driver's seat and ordered her into the back. The victim pleaded with him. He told her to shut up and take off her clothes. He then vaginally and orally raped her.

After the rape, Mr. Correia threw the victim's clothes at her, and she got dressed. He drove back to her grandmother's apartment building and told her that if she reported the rape, he would come back and kill her grandmother. Mr. Correia got out of the car and instructed the victim to drive away, which she did. She soon found a police officer and reported the rape. Mr. Correia was arrested the next day in the vicinity of the scene of the rape. The victim identified him in a lineup identification, noting some of the items of clothing he was wearing.

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: Steven Correia is 70-years-old and has been incarcerated for the past 43 years. This is Mr. Correia's first appearance before the Board. Mr. Correia did not present as forthright and honest with the Board. Despite strong evidence underlying his conviction, and post-conviction testing inculcating him in the crime, Mr. Correia maintains his innocence of the underlying conviction and of all his multiple convictions for sexual assault crimes. The Board also notes Mr. Correia committed this crime (and others) while on escape from an earlier incarceration. Mr. Correia scores high on the LS/CMI risk assessment. The Board acknowledges Mr. Correia's achievements in other areas, including the bachelor's degree he earned from Boston University, and his participation in multiple committees while incarcerated. The Board encourages Mr. Correia to enroll with the Sex Offender Treatment Program and engage and address his need areas. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Bristol County ADA Jose Vazquez. The Board also heard testimony from three of Mr. Correia's family members, and a friend, in support of parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Steven Correia has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

⁶ The name of the victim has been removed to protect her identity.

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.



Tonomay A. Coleman, Acting Chair

Date

7/29/25