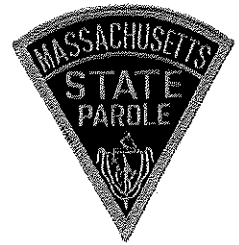


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*  
**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Lian Hogan**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**STEVEN SARGENT**  
**W67518**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 13, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 3, 2025

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

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of the hearing.<sup>2</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On September 1, 1999, following a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Steven Sargent was convicted of rape of a child under 14 years of age second offense, assault to rape a child and indecent assault and battery on a child under the age of 14 second offense. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. All charges were to run concurrently.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Sargent postponed his hearings in 2015, 2019, 2020, and 2021. On February 13, 2025, Steven Sargent appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Chetan Tiwari.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** In March 1998 in Dracut, 43-year-old Steven Sargent sexually assaulted a 7-year-old child over the course of several months, while on parole supervision for the rape of a different child. The child's family had moved to Dracut in the spring of 1997 from Brazil. Soon after moving in, they met Steven Sargent. Mr. Sargent, who lived in the apartment downstairs, immediately befriended the young family and helped them with errands. He was a visitor to their home almost daily, paying special attention to the child. Mr. Sargent would invite

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<sup>1</sup> Chair Hurley participated in the vote on this matter prior to her departure from the Board.

<sup>2</sup> Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 4 years.

<sup>3</sup> These sentences were ordered to commence from and after a separate sentence he was then serving on commitment W42488

her down to his apartment for popsicles and to play with his cat. Because Mr. Sargent had been so kind to her family, the child's mother allowed her to go down to his apartment by herself.

On occasions after March 8, 1998, the child was alone with Steven Sargent in his apartment. While there, Mr. Sargent would place her on his lap and spank her buttocks both over and under her clothes. On one occasion, he put his hands inside her pants and underpants and put his finger inside her vagina. Steven Sargent also tried to put his finger inside her vagina on two other occasions, but was unable to do so. In early June 1998, the victim's family moved from Dracut to Lowell. Approximately one week after the family had moved away from Steven Sargent, the victim told her mother what Mr. Sargent had done.

**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. Sargent is 69 years old and has been incarcerated for the past 27 years. This is his first appearance before the Board on this offense. Mr. Sargent committed the underlying offense, the rape of a 7-year-old child, while he was on parole for the rape of another 7-year-old child. Mr. Sargent has only recently completed SOTP, and the Board is concerned, given the nature of the charges, that he reoffended while on parole and has an LSCMI risk assessment establishing a high risk of reoffending. The Board believes that additional effort is needed to ensure that Mr. Sargent's release is not incompatible with the welfare of society. Additionally, Mr. Sargent's testimony at the hearing showed a lack of insight towards his grooming behaviors and sexual offenses. The Board considered the expert testimony of Dr. Emily Brown and the release plan submitted by Kathryn R. Barry, LICSW, Esq. The Board also heard testimony in opposition to parole from one of Mr. Sargent's victims and from Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Adrienne Lynch. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Steven Sargent 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

7/3/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date