



**Charles D. Baker**  
Governor

**Karyn Polito**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Daniel Bennett**  
Secretary

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

*Telephone # (508) 650-4500*

*Facsimile # (508) 650-4599*



**Paul M. Treseler**  
Chairman

**Michael J. Callahan**  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**WILFRED DACIER**

**W62511**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 28, 2017

**DATE OF DECISION:** November 13, 2017

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On April 15, 1997, in Middlesex Superior Court, Wilfred Dacier pled guilty to the second degree murder of his 34-year-old sister, Susan Dacier. Accordingly, a sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole was imposed on Mr. Dacier.

During October 1995, Mr. Dacier (then 38-years-old) and his sister were living together in Lowell. During the early morning hours of October 21, Mr. Dacier walked into Ms. Dacier's bedroom to discuss the household financial situation. An argument ensued. Subsequently, Mr. Dacier went to his bedroom and retrieved a large military style knife. Mr. Dacier then returned to his sister's bedroom and proceeded to stab her 14 times in the face and body, as she lay in bed. Mr. Dacier then called his brother and sister-in-law and stated that he did "a real bad thing" – he had become very angry and had thrown a knife at his sister. His sister-in-law told Mr. Dacier to call 911, and they contacted the Lowell Police Department. When police arrived at the home, they found Mr. Dacier sitting on the front steps with a cell phone. There was blood on his hands and clothing. In the second floor bedroom, they discovered Ms. Dacier lying on her bed, bleeding profusely and unresponsive. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Dacier was pronounced dead at the hospital.



## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

After Mr. Dacier's initial hearing in 2010, he was granted parole with the condition of acceptance into a Department of Mental Health (DMH) secured facility. The Board noted in its decision that security could not be reduced without Board approval, and that, no less restrictive setting would be compatible with the demands of public safety. In 2011, Mr. Dacier was evaluated by the DMH and found not to meet the criteria for DMH services. As a result of Mr. Dacier's inability to meet the Board's prescribed vote requirements, his parole was rescinded in December 2013. He was placed on the next available hearing list (PONAL) and a review hearing took place on April 1, 2014. The Board voted "action pending" and requested that a mental health evaluation be conducted by Dr. Robert Kinscherff for a better understanding of Mr. Dacier's current needs. On April 26, 2016, the Board determined that Mr. Dacier had not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Parole was denied with a review scheduled in one year from the date of the decision. Mr. Dacier appealed the Board's decision and was granted a new parole hearing (February, 28, 2017).

Mr. Dacier, now 60-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 28, 2017. He was represented by Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project Student Attorneys Justin Kennedy and Erik Mortensen. Mr. Dacier gave a lengthy opening statement during which he expressed remorse for killing his sister. Looking back, Mr. Dacier said that he now realizes Ms. Dacier was his only real support in the community. Mr. Dacier explained that his mind was "playing tricks" on him and he lashed out at his sister, believing that she was trying to discredit him. After participating in therapy and programming, Mr. Dacier now believes that he has the tools to deal with the distortions associated with his schizoaffective disorder.

At the time of the murder, Mr. Dacier was living with his sister in Lowell, while their mother was living in a nursing home. Mr. Dacier had been "in and out" of jobs around that time, but had recently gotten a job as a machinist (three weeks prior to the murder). Mr. Dacier was asked why he thought [the murder] happened. Mr. Dacier indicated that his sister had a professional job and stated, "I felt in my heart that I was not equal to my sister." A Board Member then asked Mr. Dacier if he was resentful. He replied, "I could've been... I now look back on it and my mental illness was playing that trick on me, saying that I'm not as good as her...those are the lies that were put in my mind by mental illness." At one point during the hearing, a Board Member asked Mr. Dacier about his understanding of his schizoaffective disorder diagnosis. He explained that he has to "check things out" and that he can't rely on his gut feeling sometimes because "it lies to me." When asked how he "checks things out," Mr. Dacier said that he asks people around him if what he sees is real.

Throughout the hearing, Board Members questioned Mr. Dacier about his issues with anger. One Board Member noted that during his 2010 hearing, Mr. Dacier talked a lot about anger and how it had been a precipitant to the stabbing. In response to questioning, Mr. Dacier indicated that the Anger Management Program taught him how to deal with people who irritate him, as well as how to have empathy for people with differing opinions. Mr. Dacier was asked if he had ever done anything to intimidate his sister. He acknowledged that he would get "boisterous" with her," but maintains that he never threatened to harm her. When asked if he was ever intimidating to his mother, Mr. Dacier stated, "There are some times when I didn't do



good with my mom" and then referenced an occasion when he had to be removed from his mother's room because he was "getting loud." A Board Member stated that a clinician noted that Mr. Dacier could be perceived as potentially threatening when irritable. Dr. Dacier responded, "Well that's the situation I told you about with my mom and people like that... when I get angry it's hard for me to express and to just leave them alone... my schizoaffective disorder makes me want to get in people's faces, to intrude on people's personal space..."

Mr. Dacier was also asked about his history of substance use. He said that he smoked marijuana and drank alcohol in high school, but indicated that his substance use did not get out of control until around 1990. Mr. Dacier told the Board that he began to self-medicate with cocaine to deal with back pain from a skiing accident. Mr. Dacier said that he wished he had never gotten involved with [cocaine]. Mr. Dacier said it would heighten his anger, and he would get "out of control." When asked if drugs and alcohol played a role in the murder, Mr. Dacier said "no" and stated that he had not used any substances on the day of the murder. While incarcerated, Mr. Dacier has participated in programming and mental health treatment, including Restorative Justice, dual diagnosis therapy, and counseling. He is employed in the optical shop and has skills as a machinist. Mr. Dacier also participates in church functions one to two times per week.

The Board considered oral testimony from a friend of Mr. Dacier, who spoke in support of parole. Ms. Dacier's sister-in-law (also Mr. Dacier's sister-in-law) spoke at the hearing and indicated that if Mr. Dacier were to be paroled, she would prefer that he be paroled to a secure setting, as she was in opposition to him being paroled into the community. Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Barnes spoke in opposition to parole and submitted a letter of opposition, as well.

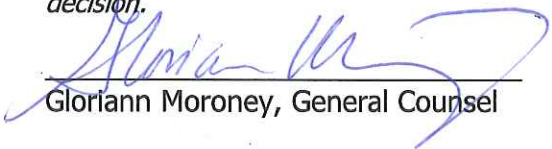
### **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Dacier has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Dacier admitted to unresolved anger issues during the hearing. Mr. Dacier should continue to invest in relevant treatment and programming. In addition, the Board recommends that Mr. Dacier pursue an appeal to DMH for services, as his release plan is not suitable in addressing his mental health needs and public safety.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Dacier's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Dacier's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Dacier's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Dacier is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Dacier next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Dacier to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

*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.*

  
Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

11/13/17  
Date