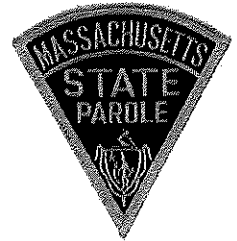


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

WILLIAM BROWN
W106570

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing
DATE OF HEARING: May 20, 2025
DATE OF DECISION: October 23, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

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

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 18, 2015, in Worcester Superior Court, William Brown pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree for the death of Sarin Chan. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On May 20, 2025, Mr. Brown appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He did not have legal representation. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Brown's May 20, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: During July 2010, 29-year-old William Brown lived with his wife, Sarin Chan, and her two young children in Fitchburg. In the early morning hours of July 18, 2010, Mr. Brown stabbed and killed Ms. Chan. When Fitchburg police and fire personnel responded to the apartment, they heard someone asking for help inside. The fire department had to force the door open with pry bars. Inside the apartment, they saw Ms. Chan deceased on the floor of the living room. An officer noticed a knife covered in blood nearby. Responders heard moaning from the bathroom and found Mr. Brown in the tub. He was suffering from self-inflicted knife wounds to his wrists and his abdomen. EMTs transported him to the hospital, where he ultimately

¹ Board Members Coleman and Coughlin were not present for the hearing, but they reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

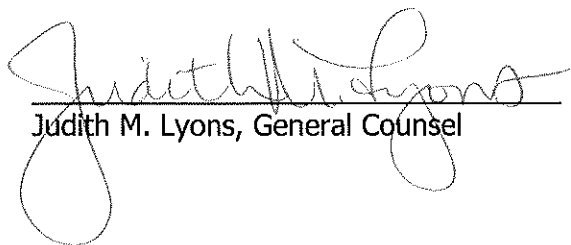
recovered from his injuries. Responders also found two young children, unharmed, behind a closed bedroom door.

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: This was Mr. Brown’s first appearance before the Board. Mr. Brown was 29-years-old at the time he inflicted multiple stab wounds on his wife. He is now 43-years-old. Mr. Brown discussed his history of mental health issues. He has completed programming related to Violence Reduction. Mr. Brown would benefit from a comprehensive re-entry plan which can address how his needs can best be supported in the community. Mr. Brown would benefit from programming related to domestic violence. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that William Brown has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

The Board heard testimony in opposition to parole from Ms. Chan’s sister and daughter, as well as testimony from Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Jesse-Paul Crane.

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.


Judith M. Lyons, General Counsel

10/23/25
Date