



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INDETERMINATE SENTENCE REVIEW BOARD
P.O. BOX 40907, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0907

DECISION AND REASONS

NAME: COKER, Joe
DOC #: 253235
FACILITY: Washington Corrections Center - WCC
TYPE OF HEARING: .100 Hearing
HEARING DATE: February 21, 2018
PANEL MEMBERS: EB, KR, LRG & JP
FINAL DECISION DATE: March 5, 2018

This matter came before Elyse Balmert, Kecia Rongen, Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey and Jeff Patnode who are members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or the Board) on the above date for a release hearing in accordance with the provisions of RCW 9.95.100. Mr. Joe Coker appeared in person and was represented by attorney Cindy Jordan. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Margaret Hobbs and Mr. Coker.

BOARD DECISION:

Based on the requirements of RCW 9.95.009(3) and RCW 9.95.100 and the totality of evidence and information considered by the Board, the Board finds that Mr. Coker is parolable.

NEXT ACTION:

Mr. Coker may submit an Offender Release Plan (ORP) for consideration.

JURISDICTION:

Joe Coker is under the jurisdiction of the Board on a 1983 conviction in Whatcom County Cause #82-1-00310-0 for Count I – Rape in the First Degree and Count III – Burglary in the First Degree.

The time start is April 26, 1983. The minimum term was set at 146 months on Count I and 107 months on Count III from adjusted Sentencing Reform Act ranges of 48 to 66 months on Count I and 12 to 18 months on Count III. The maximum term on both counts is Life. Mr. Coker has served approximately 418 months in prison.

NATURE OF INDEX OFFENSE(S):

File materials indicate that the index offenses began with the stalking and harassment of a 22-year old college student and culminated in her kidnap and rape. Prior to the kidnapping and rape, Mr. Coker repeatedly broke into her home leaving messages and taking souvenirs, including her underwear. On the night of the kidnapping and rape, Mr. Coker hid in the backseat of her car and told her he was armed with a firearm. He ordered her to drive to her apartment. Upon arriving, she was forced into her apartment, where she was raped. Mr. Coker forced the victim to remove any physical evidence of the sexual attack and forced her to bathe and douche. After the victim summoned police and while she was at the hospital, the police left her apartment for approximately an hour, during which time Mr. Coker returned to the crime scene and left yet another taunting note to the victim.

PRIOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT:

Mr. Coker had three previous felony convictions for Grand Larceny, whose maximum terms have expired. Mr. Coker was on parole for two of those convictions when he committed the index crimes. During his period of probation Mr. Coker received a violation for an assault on his girlfriend.

HISTORY/COMMENTS:

Mr. Coker's last hearing was held on January 18, 2017. At that time the Board found him conditionally parolable to a MRP. At Mr. Coker's last hearing the Board recommended a camp setting as part of the lower levels of custody transition. While in the MRP process, Mr. Coker should continue to access mental health services and focus on maintaining positive, infraction free behavior.

CC Hobbs testified to the following: Since his last hearing Mr. Coker has completed Bridges to Life, and the Institution Sanitation program. He has not incurred any new serious infractions since his last hearing, has had no issues of concern with staff, and has done well. She said he does get frustrated at times when dealing with other inmates but responds appropriately.

Mr. Coker testified to the following: He has been working with physical therapy due to his mobility issues (wheelchair-bound) and has a therapy aide assigned to assist him. He has completed Celebrate Recovery multiple times and continues to participate in the program. He sees mental health once a month and can identify his high risks and interventions. He said Bridges to Life had a huge effect on him and helped him to understand the impact of his crime on his victim. His plan when released is to work in a warehouse, utilize the Housing Voucher program, and reside at the Everett Mack house. He states he has a group of prosocial people he can rely on to assist him in the community. He says he wants to volunteer at a soup kitchen and give back to the community.

Ms. Jordan stated that Mr. Coker has made many changes and is continuing to work towards changing. He has been quite open and honest and she is proud of his progress. She believes he is ready to be released to the community.

INFORMATION CONSIDERED:

In preparation for Mr. Coker's hearing and its decision in this case, the Board completed a review of his ISRB file. The Board considered all information contained in that file, including but not limited to: the most recent DOC facility plan; information regarding institutional behavior and programming; any letters of support and/or concerns sent to the Board; the Pre-Sentence Investigation report; and the psychological evaluation prepared by Ph.D. Johnson September 22, 2016. The Board also considered the testimony of the witnesses listed above. The judge and prosecutor both recommended minimum terms of 20 years.

REASONS:

This was a deferred decision following a full Board discussion using a structured decision-making framework that takes into consideration; the statistical estimate of risk, criminal history, parole/release history, ability to control behavior, responsivity to programming, demonstrated offender change, release planning, discordant information, and other case specific factors. Based on the requirements of RCW 9.95.009 (3) and RCW 9.95.100 the Board finds Mr. Coker parolable.

In his most recent psychological evaluation, Ph. D. Johnson states that Mr. Coker's overall risk was estimated to be in the low to moderate range for recidivism. He further stated that "Mr. Coker appeared to demonstrate improvement in his ability to better manage his low frustration tolerance and stress. Specifically, from mid-2014 forward, it appears there are multiple mental health notes from Mr. Coker seeking mental health assistance during difficult situations such as cell transfers, ISRB process, etc." Ph.D. Johnson also noticed a reduction in the frequency of episodes of physical or verbal aggressiveness by Mr. Coker.

Mr. Coker has continued to access mental health services and remained infraction free as previously recommended by the Board. Consistent with the recommendations from Ph. D. Johnson, the Board recommends Mr. Coker continue to participate in mental health counseling including being medication compliant, he have tight controls for substance use, and he abstain from use of alcohol or other drugs when released to the community. Mr. Coker understands that he will be required to attend Phase Three of SOTAP when released. Mr. Coker appears to be ready for release to the community with conditions of supervision.

EB: ffo

February 29, 2018

March 5, 2018

March 6, 2018

cc: Institution/WCC
Joe COKER
Cindy Jordan, Attorney
File/ffo



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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P.O. BOX 40907, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0907

DATE: February 29, 2018

TO: Full Board

FROM: EB & KR (*Fawn*)

RE: COKER, Joe / *DOC# 315372*

Panel recommends: Found parolable.

Next action: Submit ORP for consideration.

Agree	Disagree
Elyse Balmert 3-5-2018 Jeff Patnode 3-5-2018 Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 3-5-2018 Kecia Rongen 3-5-2018	