



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

DECISION AND REASONS

NAME: CRENSHAW, Rodney
DOC #: 287392
FACILITY: Washington Corrections Center - WCC
TYPE OF HEARING: .100 Hearing
HEARING DATE: May 10, 2017
PANEL MEMBERS: LRG, JP and EB
FINAL DECISION DATE: May 22, 2017

This matter came before Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey, Jeff Patnode, and Elyse Balmert, 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. Crenshaw appeared in person and was represented by attorney Jeremy Stevens. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Margaret Hobbs, and Mr. Crenshaw.

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. Crenshaw is not parolable and adds 90 months to his minimum term.

NEXT ACTION:

Schedule a .100 hearing approximately 120 days prior to his PERD. An updated psychological evaluation will be required by the Board.

JURISDICTION:

Rodney Crenshaw is under the jurisdiction of the Board on a 1978 conviction in Whatcom County Cause #10006 for Murder in the First Degree. His time start is December 21, 1978. His initial duration of confinement was set by the Board at 420 months. The standard range of the Sentencing Reform Act at the time was 236 to 316 months. The Judge and Prosecutor recommended 900 months. His maximum term is Life. He has served approximately 459 months and 113 days of jail time.

NATURE OF INDEX OFFENSE:

File materials describe the underlying conviction as Mr. Crenshaw murdering his wife Karen Schram, on August 28, 1978, not long after they married. They had moved to Canada soon after their marriage, however Mr. Crenshaw was quickly deported when he came to the attention of police. (He had a prior assault conviction in Canada in 1975.) After he was deported he waited for his wife at a motel in Blaine, Washington. When she arrived he decided she had been unfaithful in his absence and upon entering the motel room he beat her into unconsciousness. He left the room, obtained a knife, and returned and stabbed her 24 times. He left again and obtained an axe, then used that to decapitate her. He removed her head and torso from the room, cleaned the room, and dumped her body in a drainage ditch approximately 25 miles away. Mr. Crenshaw was subsequently arrested after he picked up two hitchhikers, told them he had killed his wife and tried to get them to help him in getting rid of his wife's car by driving it into a river in Hoquiam, Washington. The hitchhikers contacted police with their story and they located Karen Schram's car in the river and Mr. Crenshaw in the local area.

PRIOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT:

Mr. Crenshaw has an extensive criminal history that dates back to when he was a juvenile. He has numerous misdemeanor offenses, including aggravated battery, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and assault. He has a 1975 conviction out of Canada for "Assault Causing Bodily Harm/Common Assault." He was given one month of confinement then was deported. Mr. Crenshaw has another assault conviction in 1978 out of Dallas, Texas, while he was on probation.

HISTORY/COMMENTS:

Mr. Crenshaw's last hearing was held on August 18, 2014. At that time the Board found him conditionally parolable to a Mutual Re-Entry Plan (MRP). The Board expected he would continue to demonstrate positive changes in general population, then a camp setting, and that he would transition to the community through work release.

On September 21, 2016, Mr. Crenshaw arrived at Reynolds Work Release to begin the last leg of his MRP. The record indicates he began experiencing problems almost immediately. Staff held a Behavioral Classification with him on September 29, 2016 to address his ongoing agitation and verbal aggression with staff. He raised his voice during this meeting and became upset and defensive.

His issues with staff continued. He was reprimanded several times for being late to return to the facility, not completing his extra duty hours, and being disruptive.

Finally, on December 8, 2016, his CCO confronted him about a complaint he had received regarding Mr. Crenshaw's behavior at work. Later that same day Mr. Crenshaw returned to his CCO's office and because the CCO was on the phone he was asked to wait. When the CCO was available to meet with him Mr. Crenshaw became argumentative, swore and refused to listen to the CCO, instead talking over him, etc. The CCO had to direct him to leave the area several times. After staffing the case with the supervisor it was determined Mr. Crenshaw would be arrested and infracted for refusing to disperse. During the arrest Mr. Crenshaw became aggressive and called the CCO an "asshole", a "sociopath", and a "piece of shit". He then told the CCO he would "smash his fucking brains in." He was infracted for refusing to disperse and threatening, and found guilty of both violations he was terminated from Work Release.

Mr. Crenshaw was asked to explain his behavior at the work release. He denied ever raising his voice with the CCO but instead said the CCO was yelling at him. He denied saying he would "smash his brains out". He denied swearing, etc. He did admit that he had some problems and

stated he was having problems because he did not know what to expect at work release. He thought he was going to have much more freedom and could do things like “go to the park and feed the pigeons” and go out to restaurants on the weekend. He stated that if he had known what work release would be like he never would have gone there and he would have stayed in prison. He indicated an unhappiness about the work he was allowed to do and the pay he was getting. He stated he could make much more as an entry level accountant or psychologist. He was reminded he was neither of these and he claimed he was both.

Mr. Crenshaw wanted the Board to know he was a good worker while at work release and showed up for work every day. He volunteered to help in the kitchen. He advised the Board he had completed a “book report” on two books about anger management and sent this in to the Board recently. He was informed this would be read prior to a decision being made. (This Board member did locate this writing and read it.)

At one point Mr. Crenshaw admitted he may have a temper problem but later recanted that and said his wasn't any different than anyone else's. The Board asked Mr. Crenshaw how we could expect him to control himself in the community if he can't even do it in a work release setting. He indicated in the community he would not have to associate with people (like state staff) who are sociopaths and liars. He went on to say that the DOC has been “infiltrated” by sociopaths. He was asked about his mental health. He denied his diagnosis and stated he didn't think people should be labeled. He said he “doesn't mind” taking his medication.

Classification Counselor Hobbs testified that since his return to prison for the infraction behavior, Mr. Crenshaw's behavior has been “up and down”. She stated he became belligerent and demanding with her when she did not do as he requested one day. She said she had to direct him to leave her office several times and after he did leave he continued to raise his voice and express his frustrations. She estimated the episode lasted about 15 minutes. Mr. Crenshaw stated he was not inappropriate with his CC and that **she** was yelling and swearing at **him**. He stated his CC was lying. He stated as a “Christian” he tells the truth.

INFORMATION CONSIDERED:

In preparation for Mr. Crenshaw'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; psychological evaluation prepared by Dr. Wentworth in 2013, which indicates he is at a moderate to high risk for violence if released to the community. The Board also considered the testimony of the witnesses listed above.

The last input received from the Prosecutor was that based on the nature of his offense and his infraction history, he be required to serve the 900 months recommended.

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. Crenshaw not parolable and adds 90 months to his minimum term.

Mr. Crenshaw has been found conditionally parolable three times by the Board. The first two times he nullified this plan by acting out and receiving serious infractions. This time he finally made it to work release but began exhibiting inappropriate behavior almost immediately. The work release was frankly quite patient and lenient with Mr. Crenshaw's antagonistic attitude and the disrespect he showed staff. In today's hearing Mr. Crenshaw denied responsibility for his behavior and claimed staff were sociopaths and out to destroy people's lives. He claimed the Board was "accusing" him of things and "insinuating" negative things. He attempted to go off on several tangents that were irrelevant. He struggled to give a straight answer to any question asked of him. He was very argumentative throughout the hearing.

The Board recommends Mr. Crenshaw participate in any programming available to address his inability to deal appropriately with frustration. While he may consider himself well educated in psychology and anger management, he is apparently unable to apply this information to his own circumstances.

LRG: ffo

May 26, 2017

May 31, 2017

cc: Institution
Rodney Crenshaw
File
Jeremy Stevens, Attorney



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

DATE: May 26, 2017

TO: Full Board

FROM: LRG, JP & EB (FAWN)

RE: CRENSHAW, Rodney / *DOC# 287392*

Panel recommends: Not Releasable. Add 90 months to minimum term.

Next action: Schedule a .100 hearing approximately 120 days prior to PERD.

Agree	Disagree
Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 5-22-2017 Elyse Balmert 5-22-2017 Jeff Patnode 5-22-2017 Kecia Rongen 5-22-2017	