



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

**DECISION AND REASONS**

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NAME: LAWSON, Robert  
DOC #: 287411  
FACILITY: MCC-Special Offender Unit (SOU)  
TYPE OF HEARING: .100 Hearing  
HEARING DATE: August 9, 2017  
PANEL MEMBERS: Jeff Patnode and Elyse Balmert  
FINAL DECISION DATE: August 21, 2017

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This matter came before Jeff Patnode and Elyse Balmert, who are members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or the Board) on the above date for a parole hearing in accordance with the provisions of RCW 9.95.100. Mr. Lawson appeared in person and was represented by attorney Richard Linn. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) David Martin, DOC Psychological Associate Wesley Westbrook, Dr. Cynthia Goins, and Mr. Lawson.

**BOARD DECISION:**

This was a Deferred 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. Lawson is not parolable and extends him to his maximum release date.

**NEXT ACTION:**

Schedule a Cashaw hearing prior to his maximum release date in July 2025. The Board will consider seeing Mr. Lawson sooner upon notification that he has successfully completed the SOTAP.

**JURISDICTION:**

Robert Lawson is under the jurisdiction of the Board on a 1979 conviction of Rape in the First Degree in Snohomish County Cause # 79-1-00504-0. His time start is July 9, 1980. The minimum term was set at 144 months from a Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) range of 54 to 76 months. His maximum term is 50 years. He has served approximately 445 months in prison and 369 days of jail time.

**NATURE OF INDEX OFFENSE(S):**

File materials indicate that Mr. Lawson sexually assaulted two brothers, ages 9 and 12 after he lured them into his apartment. He removed the clothing of the 9 year-old, tied him, gagged him, and placed him in a closet. He then threatened the 12 year-old with a paint scraper, removed the boy's clothes, made him perform oral sex on him, and anally raped him. He then tied him, gagged him, and put him in the closet with his brother.

Mr. Lawson fled the scene but reportedly turned himself in a few days later. He reported that he; "...thought about cutting them up into pieces and flushing them down the toilet..."

**PRIOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT:**

Records indicate that Mr. Lawson committed several juvenile crimes in Oregon and Washington for which there are no details.

Mr. Lawson's adult criminal history includes convictions for Simple Assault in 1966, Theft and Interstate Transport of a Stolen Vehicle in 1967, Fugitive, Hit & Run, Reckless Driving, Forgery and a Parole Violation in 1974, Unauthorized Use of Vehicle and Child Molestation in 1979. In 1979 prior to committing the index offenses Mr. Lawson was awaiting a court hearing for charges of Child Molestation. This occurred when Mr. Lawson worked at a summer camp and offended against three boys (all age 11). Reports indicate that he pulled down their pants then pulled down his pants and masturbated in front of them.

File material reports that Mr. Lawson has a historical pattern of sexual impulsivity within the institutions in which he has been housed. He reported during his 2004 stay in the SOTP that he still had sexualized thoughts and urges about certain inmates, usually younger. Mr. Lawson admitted to engaging in sexual activity with approximately 15 other inmates over the past 22 years up to 2004. While in the SOTP in 2004, Mr. Lawson reported during an individual session with his therapist that he fantasized about killing a boy, freezing him, and thawing him out to have sex with him. Another fantasy Mr. Lawson reported was having a dungeon under his house where he could "store boys." He reported that he would wait for them to "almost" starve, then feed them and perform sexual acts.

**HISTORY/COMMENTS:**

Mr. Lawson's last hearing was held on July 21, 2015. At that time the Board found him not parolable and added 36 months to his minimum term. The Board recommended he reapply for SOTAP and remain infraction free for at least a one year period.

Mr. Lawson has incurred two serious infractions since his last hearing as detailed below:

February 26, 2017 – WAC 884 – Urinating, defecating, or placing feces or urine in any location other than a toilet or authorized receptacle.

March 5, 2017 – WAC 506 – **Threatening**, and WAC 509 – Refusing to Disperse. Mr. Lawson told an officer, "I'm going to seg, you piece of shit, fuck you." The officer ordered Mr. Lawson to return to his cell; Mr. Lawson refused, saying he would hit someone if he stayed in the unit.

**INFORMATION CONSIDERED:**

In preparation for Mr. Lawson's hearing and its decision in this case, the Board completed a review of Mr. Lawson's Department of Corrections (DOC) and ISRB files. The Board considered all information contained in those files, 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 Dr. Debora Wentworth, April 10, 2017. The Board also considered the testimony of the witnesses listed above.

The original sentencing Judge and Prosecutor did not make minimum term recommendations in this case and there is no current recommendation from the prosecutor.

**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. Lawson not parolable.

Mr. Lawson presented as very frail during his hearing and at one point appeared to pass out and fall to the floor. The hearing was placed on pause as Mr. Lawson was assessed by medical staff. Following their assessment, Mr. Lawson stated he wanted to continue the hearing at which time we went back on the record and proceeded with the hearing. Mr. Lawson stated he wants to participate in the SOTAP as he feels he is a risk to the community if he has not completed the program. He further stated that the recent serious infractions were purposeful on his part and his behavior was for the purpose of being transferred to another unit as quickly as possible.

Dr. Deborah Wentworth completed a psychological evaluation on April 10, 2017. She attempted to interview Mr. Lawson twice for the evaluation. Dr. Wentworth and Dr. Cynthia Goines determined that Mr. Lawson was not psychologically stable enough to participate in the evaluation, and would not be for the foreseeable future. Dr. Wentworth completed the report with available records since his last evaluation. Dr. Wentworth concludes that Mr. Lawson does not appear to be a reasonable candidate for transitioning at this time.

Mr. Lawson is an untreated high risk sex offender with a variety of significant cognitive and physical impairments. He has made multiple attempts at completing SOTAP and has yet to be able to do so. It is unclear if his medical limitations will be a barrier for future participation. Additionally, Mr. Lawson has not demonstrated an ability to follow rules and remain free from incurring serious infractions.

As previously recommended, the Board would like Mr. Lawson to participate in the SOTAP and remain infraction free. The Board is extending Mr. Lawson to his maximum release date. The Board may soon him sooner if he completes SOTAP.

JP: ts

August 22, 2017

August 22, 2017

August 24, 2017

cc: MCC-SOU  
Robert Lawson  
File  
Richard Linn



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

DATE: August 21, 2017

TO: Full Board

FROM: JP & EB (Teresa)

RE: LAWSON, Harold, DOC# 287411

Panel recommends: Not releasable and extend to maximum release date.

Next action: Schedule Cashaw Hearing July 2025. The Board may see Mr. Lawson sooner upon notification of SOTAP completion.

<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Jeff Patnode 8-21-2017 Elyse Balmert 8-21-2017 Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 8-21-2017 Kecia Rongen 8-21-2017	