



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

DECISION AND REASONS

NAME: LAKE, Starr
DOC #: 778957
FACILITY: Washington Corrections Center for Women – WCCW
DATE OF HEARING: August 22, 2018
TYPE OF HEARING: LT JUVBRD
PANEL MEMBERS: Kecia Rongen & Elyse Balmert
FINAL DECISION DATE: September 10, 2018

This matter came before the above named Board Members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or the Board) for a release hearing in accordance with RCW 9.94A.730 or RCW 10.95.030. In preparation for the hearing, the Board reviewed Ms. Lake’s ISRB file. Starr Lake appeared in person. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Francis Reyes.

The Board received a recommendation dated July 12, 2018 from Walla Walla Prosecuting Attorney James Nagle who recommended Ms. Lake not be released and noted that “it would not serve the ends of justice to decrease her sentence to less than Michael Jansen’s”. Her mental abilities and capacity to understand the nature and consequences of enticing someone into murdering her parents were the same as someone twice her age.

CURRENT BOARD DECISION:

Based on the burden of proof set out in RCW 9.94A.730 or RCW 10.95.030(3)(f) and the totality of evidence and information provided to the Board, the Board does find by a preponderance of the evidence that Ms. Lake is more likely than not to commit any new criminal law violations if

released on conditions. Consequently, the Board finds Ms. Lake not releasable. Ms. Lake can re-submit a petition for review in August of 2020.

NEXT ACTION:

Submit a petition in August of 2020. A new psychological report will be required.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

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, 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 9.94A.730 or RCW 10.95.030 the Board finds Ms. Lake is more likely than not to commit a new crime if released with conditions that are designed to help better prepare him for a successful re-entry into society. Ms. Lake is determined to be not releasable based on the following:

- **Extensive planning prior to the double murder for several weeks which speaks to her sophistication in criminal thinking.**
- **Ms. Lake's explanation of her part in the double murders does not match file material, provoking doubt about her ability to understand her criminogenic treatment needs and risk factors.**
- **Ms. Lake has served less than 4 years on the Count II Murder in the Second Degree.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Attend individual counseling to gain insight into risk factors and Bridges to Life or other comparable victim empathy class.

JURISDICTION:

RCW 9.94A.730, enacted in 2014, allows offenders who were under the age of 18 when they committed their crime(s) and were sentenced as adults to petition the Board for consideration

of early release consideration after serving no less than 20 years of total confinement. Ms. Lake's petition resulted in the hearing on this date.

Starr M. Lake is currently serving on a May 18, 1998 conviction in Walla Walla County Cause #97-1-00293-9 for **Count II** – Murder in the Second Degree. The time start is November 1, 2014. The minimum term was set at 240 months from a Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) range of 123 to 164 months, to be served consecutively to Count I. The maximum term is Life. Ms. Lake has served approximately 242 months in prison and 200 days of jail time.

Other Causes/Counts:

At the time of sentencing under Walla Walla County Cause #97-1-00293-9, Ms. Lake was also sentenced under Count I – Murder in the Second Degree. The Court ordered that Ms. Lake serve 240 months confinement, consecutive with Count II. Ms. Lake began serving that confinement term on May 21, 1998. She completed that confinement term on November 1, 2014, and began serving confinement under Count II.

OFFENSE DESCRIPTION:

According to file material, Starr Lake, age 16, and a co-defendant, Michael Jansen, conspired to kill Ms. Lake's adoptive parents which were her biological grandparents. Ms. Lake and Mr. Jansen talked about the murder plot for a few weeks before the actual murders. On the night of the murders, Ms. Lake signaled Mr. Jansen through a pair of Ham radios when her parents went to bed. Mr. Jansen then came into the home and shot them with a total of 12 shots. File materials also indicate that Mr. Jansen struck both victims in the head with the butt of the pistol and pulled the female victim out of bed where he strangled her. The motive behind the murders at the time was believed to be for Ms. Lake to inherit their estate.

PRIOR RISK RELATED/ CRIMINAL CONDUCT:

File materials indicate that over the two weeks prior to the murder, Ms. Lake and Mr. Jansen discussed other ways to kill her parents which included: grinding up sleeping pills and putting it

in their food, tampering with her father's heart medication, and attempting to "gas" her parents to death with a mixture of bleach and ammonia.

PROGRESS/BEHAVIOR:

CC Reyes testified that Ms. Lake is enrolled in the Federal Freedom Education Project Puget Sound and she received an AA degree with honors. She has received 16 serious infractions during her incarceration. Her last one was in 2009 for Borrow/Sell/Lend/Trade. File materials indicate that she has completed Alternatives to Violence, Horticulture, Commercial Floral Practitioner, Non-Violent Communication, Business Technology, Makin' It Work, Braille Transcription, Re-Entry Life Skills, Moving On, and Basic Obedience. She is currently employed as a Kennel Worker with the Prison Pet Partnership Program.

Ms. Lake testified that at the time of the murders she was in fact being sexually abused over a number of years by one of her parents' friends. When she told her mother, she did not do anything about it. In addition, Ms. Lake still had to be around this individual on family trips. There was an upcoming trip that Ms. Lake was going to be on with this individual and her mother would not let her stay home. Ms. Lake alleges that she was complaining to Mr. Jansen about this and he told her he would take care of it and "kill her parents". Ms. Lake denies the idea of tampering with heart medication as a way to commit murder. She does admit to grinding up sleeping pills and putting it in her grandmother's pie so that she could sneak out of the house. She denies this was a murder plot. She also denies that she attempted to "gas" them with ammonia and bleach, although they discussed it. The planning of the murder was called "operation potato head" by Ms. Starr and Mr. Jansen because they believed "parents have eyes and ears but don't see and hear".

The panel asked whether or not the sexual abuse had come out at the trial and Ms. Lake indicated that it did not. She alleges that they were called into the judge's chambers during the trial and that one of the adults (Sunday School teacher) she had told about the sexual abuse was going to be a witness for the prosecution and she was going to testify that Ms. Lake was lying about the

sexual abuse to get attention. The judge wanted to know if she wanted that information out in the public and Ms. Lake said she did not. Ms. Lake indicates that there was a total of five adults that knew of the sexual abuse that had happened to her but apparently no one had reported it to authorities. Ms. Lake denied any involvement in the crimes for two different jury trials. She eventually admitted to her involvement when she was in individual counseling once in prison.

Ms. Lake expresses remorse for her crimes. She would like to release to her step-parents' home in Thurston or Pierce County. She would like to obtain her BA degree and work as a dog groomer. She eventually would like to work for a non-profit on criminal justice reform.

KR:ffo

August 30, 2018

September 14, 2018

September 18, 2018

cc: WCCW
Starr LAKE
File



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P.O. BOX 40907, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0907

TO: Full Board

FROM: Kecia Rongen (Fawn Opp)

RE: LAKE, Starr DOC #778957

Panel recommends: Find not releasable.

Next action: Re-submit a petition for review in August 2020.

Agree	Disagree
09/10/2018 Elyse Balmert 09/10/2018 Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 09/10/2018 Jeff Patnode 09/10/2018 Kecia Rongen	