



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: GROTE, Jeffrey  
DOC #: 855146  
FACILITY: Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)  
DATE OF HEARING: March 22, 2022  
TYPE OF HEARING: Lt JuvBrd  
PANEL MEMBERS: TaTeasha Davis & Elyse Balmert  
FINAL DECISION DATE: April 4, 2022

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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. In preparation for the hearing, the Board reviewed Mr. Grote's ISRB file. Mr. Grote appeared in person and was represented by attorney Jenna Poligo. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Sheena Bates and DOC Classification Counselor Emilie Neissl.

**CURRENT BOARD DECISION:**

Based on the burden of proof set out in RCW 9.94A.730 and the totality of evidence and information provided to the Board, the Board does find by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Grote is less likely to commit any new criminal law violations if released on conditions. Consequently, the Board finds Mr. Grote releasable.

**NEXT ACTION:**

Submit an Offender Release Plan (ORP) for approval.

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

- **Mr. Grote’s risk assessment tools rate him as an overall Low risk; PCL-R: Low range for psychopathy; VRAG-R: Bin 6 of 9; HCR-20v3: Low; SAPROF: Moderate/High range for protective factors**
- **Mr. Grote has incurred two serious infractions during his entire prison term and only one general infraction, which shows he can manage his behavior. Neither serious infraction involved drugs or fighting**
- **He has completed risk related programming such as: Alternatives to Violence, Making it Work, and Bridges to Life. Mr. Grote co-created Re-Entry JSRB and Thinking for a Change programs with another incarcerated individual**
- **He has maintained consistent employment and is considered polite and respectful to unit staff**
- **“Mr. Grote is best described as low risk for future violence and/or recidivism. It is likely that Mr. Grote could successfully manage his behavior and live a prosocial life in a less restrictive environment, including the community.” Dr. Lisa Robtoy Psy.D.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Mr. Grote should focus on his stated goals and maintaining positive prosocial peer relationships. It will be helpful to participate in any transition support groups to assist with acclimating to the community.

**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. Mr. Grote's petition resulted in the hearing on this date.

Jeffrey Grote is under the jurisdiction of the Board on an April 23, 2003, conviction of First-Degree Murder in Snohomish County Cause #01-1-00805-1. His time start is April 29, 2003. His minimum term was set at 600 months from a Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) range of 240 to 320 months. His maximum term is Life. He has served approximately 226 months plus 739 days of jail time credit.

**OFFENSE DESCRIPTION:**

According to file material, Mr. Grote at his age of 17 his 13-year-old girlfriend, his girlfriend's brother and another young male carried out a plan created by his girlfriend's mother to ambush and murder a known 64-year-old male.

**PROGRESS/BEHAVIOR:**

CC Sheena Bates provided testimony about Mr. Grote's overall prison behavior. He has only received two serious infractions and one minor infraction during his entire prison term. The last serious infraction he received was 2006. He has received 18 positive and 2 neutral behavioral observations. He is slated to begin Thinking for a Change on March 23, 2022, and that program lasts for 12 weeks. He has completed other significant offender change programming such as: Alternatives to Violence, Making it Work, Breaking Barriers, and Bridges to Life, in addition to educational classes from University Behind Bars (UBB). He obtained his Associate of Arts degree in 2016. Mr. Grote is not currently employed although he is currently on the waiting list for employment. He was formerly employed in the wheelchair shop. He is not considered a behavioral concern on the unit and is very polite and respectful to staff.

CC Neissl confirmed that she was recently assigned to Mr. Grote and hasn't had many interactions with him. She also confirmed that he is very respectful and polite when they do interact.

Mr. Grote plans to release to his sister's home in Snohomish County. His mother currently resides with his sister. He is still in contact with his stepmother and has 37 approved visitors. He has prospective employment as a landscaper through the Housing Hope project.

When asked about why he committed the Index Offense he explained that he was searching for belonging and love. He felt abandoned by his mother at the time because he believed she chose his stepfather over him. He thought his co-defendants family showed him belonging and a connection. He naïvely believed they wanted him to be a part of their lives. Within three days of meeting his co-defendant (13-year-old) girlfriend, her mother brought up the plan to murder the victim. He thought about running or not going through with the crime, but his co-defendants knew where he lived and he didn't want to place his grandmother in any harm. Mr. Grote testified that on the day of the crime, the mother threatened to turn the weapons on him if he did not help commit the crime.

When Mr. Grote reflects on his crime, he thinks what he did was "extremely terrible" and although he can't take back his actions, he's worked hard to become a different person and help others to avoid the path he's taken.

Mr. Grote testified that he started trying to better himself right away while he was in jail by taking educational courses. He created Re-entry Juvenile Sentencing Review Board (JSRB) with another offender. They found sponsors and they created the curriculum for the class to allow offenders to have a positive release experience and transition. He also created a Thinking for a Change program with the same individual at Monroe Correctional Center. They developed the class and gathered the materials needed, but unfortunately before the class could begin, COVID-19 made it impossible.

Mr. Grote states his biggest challenge in the community will be adjustment to all the things that have changed and the stigma of being a felon and the potential negative attention that could bring. He has a lot of peer aged pro-social friendships in the community, and his goals are to save money and buy a home, have a family, obtain his bachelor's degree, and help youth in the community.

Attorney Jenna Poligo provided a closing statement and reiterated that Mr. Grote is ready for release, has pro-social community support and has done the internal work necessary to prevent re-offense.

TD: NT

March 30, 2022

cc: WSP  
Jenna Poligo  
File



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

TO: Full Board

FROM: TD (NT)

RE: GROTE, Jeffrey DOC #855146

Panel recommends: Releasable

Next action: Submit an ORP for approval

Agree	Disagree
<b>Kecia Rongen 4-4-2022</b> <b>Tateasha Davis 4-4-2022</b> <b>Elyse Balmert 4-4-2022</b> <b>Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 4-4-2022</b> <b>Jeff Patnode 4-4-2022</b>	