



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

**DECISION AND REASONS**

---

NAME: Groth, James  
DOC #: 911473  
FACILITY: Monroe Correctional Complex WSR  
DATE OF HEARING: April 20, 2021  
TYPE OF HEARING: .100  
PANEL MEMBERS: Elyse Balmert and Jeff Patnode  
FINAL DECISION DATE: May 3, 2021

---

This matter came before the above-named Board Members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or the Board) for a .100 hearing in accordance with RCW 9.95.100. In preparation for the hearing, the Board reviewed Mr. Groth's ISRB file. Mr. Groth appeared in person and was represented by Attorney Cameron Ford. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Victoria Hathaway.

In June of 2009, King County Prosecuting Attorney Daniel Satterberg recommended a minimum term of 200 months. No updated recommendation has been received.

**LAST BOARD DECISION:**

At the May 23, 2019 hearing, the Board found Mr. Groth not parolable and added 48 months to his minimum term. In their Decision, the Board recommended that Mr. Groth participate in substance abuse treatment such as Therapeutic Community, if eligible. It was further recommended that Mr. Groth also complete any available programming to address anger management.

**CURRENT 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. Groth is parolable.

**NEXT ACTION:**

Submit an Offender Release Plan for consideration.

**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 9.95.100, the Board finds Mr. Groth parolable for the following reasons:

- Is currently participating in substance abuse treatment and is anticipated to complete in mid-June.
- He has completed Non-Violent Communication X 3, Alternatives to Aggression, and Bridges to Life.
- He has positive behavior and has not incurred any Serious Infractions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Mr. Groth is scheduled to complete substance abuse treatment prior to his PERD. If he fails to successfully complete the program the Board should be notified immediately. Mr. Groth must remain substance and alcohol free. He should attend sober support groups and have strong controls around his relationships.

**JURISDICTION:**

James Groth is under the jurisdiction of the Board on a July 24, 2009 conviction in King County Cause #07-1-08669-9 for Murder in the Second Degree. The time start is September 8, 2009. The minimum term was set at 200 months. The maximum term is Life. Mr. Groth has served approximately 138 months in prison and 628 days of jail time.

**OFFENSE DESCRIPTION:**

In February of 1975, James Groth at age 16, stabbed a 16-year-old neighbor girl to death. Mr. Groth lived just a couple of houses away from the victim. He used a knife belonging to the victim's boyfriend to stab her in the back, killing her. He left the victim in her backyard where her father found her deceased the next morning.

**PRIOR CRIMINAL / RISK RELATED CONDUCT:**

Mr. Groth had no known **prior** criminal history. However, since the date of the index offense in 1975, Mr. Groth has been convicted of the following:

Felony Assault, King Co. 85-1-02004-5 May 1985  
Assault Fourth Degree, King Co. 95-1-05682-9 August 1995  
Theft Third Degree, King Co. CP10829WO, September 1995  
Assault Fourth Degree, King Co. 483925, March 2006  
Violation of a DV Court Order, King Co. 490674, July 2006  
Violation of a DV Court Order, King Co. # unknown, April 2007

**PROGRESS/BEHAVIOR:**

CC Hathaway provided a summary of Mr. Groth's programming (vocation/education and offender change). He has completed Non-Violent Communication and is currently in Intensive Out-Patient treatment. He is scheduled to complete the program in mid-June. CC Hathaway testified that Mr. Groth is doing great, he advocates for himself and he gets along with others. He is employed as a Grounds Keeper and gets outstanding work reviews and is an excellent worker.

Mr. Groth provided an overview of his crime which closely matches his previous testimony. He said he was jealous, infatuated with his friend and desired to be like him. When his friend started dating the victim Mr. Groth reported he felt like a third wheel. He said he gave no thought to the consequences of his actions. Mr. Groth reported that he has been haunted for years knowing what he had done. He was asked about his multiple Domestic Violence and Assault convictions. Mr. Groth testified that he was in unhealthy relationships and during at least a few of the assaults he was using either cocaine or alcohol.

Mr. Groth reported that he would like to release to a transition home in Bellingham and work as a mechanic. He has \$8,000 saved up and anticipates he will be able to access Veteran's Administration benefits. The only support he has in the community is a friend (former inmate).

Attorney Ford argued that the conclusion is clear that Mr. Groth has an outstanding institutional record, exceptional programming and completed or is slated to complete the Board recommendations. He has financial resources and knows how to work. Mr. Groth demonstrates insight and knows how his crime affected others. Mr. Ford stated that all of these things weigh in favor of Mr. Groth's parolability and rehabilitation.

EB:ts

May 4, 2021

cc: MCC-WSR  
Attorney  
File



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

TO: Full Board

FROM: Elyse Balmert (Teresa)

RE: Groth, James DOC #911473

Panel recommends: Parolable

Next action: Submit Offender Release Plan (ORP)

Agree	Disagree
Elyse Balmert 5-3-2021 Jeff Patnode 5-3-2021 Elyse Balmert 5-3-2021 TaTeasha Davis 5-3-2021 Kecia Rongen 5-3-3021	