



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: Richards, Douglas  
DOC #: 298532  
FACILITY: Washington State Penitentiary - WSP  
DATE OF HEARING: July 21, 2020  
TYPE OF HEARING: .100 (Cashaw) via Skype  
PANEL MEMBERS: Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey and Jeff Patnode  
FINAL DECISION DATE: August 17, 2020

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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 .100 hearing in accordance with RCW 9.95.100. In preparation for the hearing, the Board reviewed Mr. Richards's ISRB file. Mr. Richards testified and was represented by Attorney George Marlton. Testimony was also provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Andrea Wilkerson. Mr. Richards, his attorney and DOC staff were located at WSP and Board Members participated from their office in Lacey, Washington.

**Prosecutor/Judge Recommendation:**

In the State's Sentence Recommendation dated May 2, 2017, the State recommended 60 months, and no supervision or parole. No response to letter sent February 8, 2019 to the King County Prosecutors office has been received.

**LAST BOARD DECISION:**

As a result of the May 21, 2020 hearing, the Board found Mr. Richards not parolable and extended him to his maximum term.

**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. Richards is not parolable and maintains the previous decision to extend him to his maximum term.

**NEXT ACTION:**

**Release Douglas Richards when he has reached his maximum term.**

**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 9.95.100, the Board finds Mr. Richards not parolable for the following reasons:**
- **He has a lifelong history of criminal behavior beginning as a juvenile and continuing regularly and frequently right up to his current incarceration.**
- **He has not participated in any offender change programming that would mitigate his risk for reoffending.**
- **His psychological evaluation by Dr. Wentworth, dated January 10, 2019, stated, “Mr. Richards’ overall level of risk places him in the high range to reoffend. The VRAG-R and the PCL-R both place him in the high range to engage in behavior that would result in recidivism.”**
- **He appears to have no insight into his criminal behavior or his related alcohol abuse and states that now, after decades of drinking, he is simply done.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Unfortunately, because of the nature of the sentence, Mr. Richards has a maximum term of 5 years in prison and will not have any type of post release supervision upon release. There is nothing the Board can require of Mr. Richards. One can only hope that as he ages and his health declines, his risk to the community will be reduced.

**JURISDICTION:**

Douglas Richards was sentenced on November 3, 2017 in King County under Cause No. 16-1-02512-5 after pleading guilty to one count of Murder in the Second Degree. He was sentenced to a maximum sentence of life in prison, and a minimum term of five (5) years. The Court also noted in the Judgment and Sentence, “The defendant shall not be subject to probation or parole after serving the minimum term.”

An Amended Judgment and Sentence was entered on December 4, 2017, which Mr. Richards appealed. On September 10, 2018, the Judgment and Sentence was vacated and the matter was remanded for further proceedings.

Mr. Richards was **re-sentenced** on December 7, 2018, after pleading guilty to one count of **Manslaughter in the Second Degree**. He was given credit for time served on the cause to date. The Court set a maximum sentence of five years in prison, and a minimum sentence of four years. Mr. Richards has served approximately 31 months in prison and 594 days of jail time.

**OFFENSE DESCRIPTION:**

In April of 1980, at the age of 14, Douglas Richards killed a 36 year old male. The night before he was murdered, the victim and several friends went to a club in the Capitol Hill area of Seattle. He left the club alone in a taxi around 11:30 pm and was dropped off at his residence. The victim was found dead the next day by his brother who found the body lying in the bathroom area of his apartment with severe head trauma. He had been bludgeoned, strangled and stabbed to death. The apartment was in a state of disarray with items overturned and blood found throughout the apartment. Blood samples were tested and determined to come from the blood two separate contributors, one being the victim and one an unknown person. No suspects were identified at the time of the offense.

As DNA came into existence, the blood samples were submitted for testing and a “profile” established. Initially no match was found, but in 2012 a match was made with DNA evidence that was collected from a burglary scene at a Seattle Storage facility. Police had been able to obtain

fingerprints from this crime scene and those prints were identified as belonging to Douglas Richards. It was not until 2015 that police obtained a warrant for a DNA sample from Mr. Richards. His DNA matched that of the unidentified person who left his own blood behind at the murder scene in 1980.

Mr. Richards was eventually arrested and charged in the incident from April 4, 1980. He apparently told police that back then a considerable amount of time in downtown Seattle as an adolescent. Mr. Richards denied having been present at, or involved in, the homicide.

Mr. Richards plead guilty to a charge of Murder in the Second Degree (as charged in the Third Amended Information). He later appealed and it was determined that in light of the date of the charged crime, the trial court lacked authority to accept Mr. Richards' plea or to impose sentence. On September 10, 2018, the Judgment and Sentence was vacated and the matter was remanded for further proceedings.

On November 26, 2018, Mr. Richards entered a guilty plea to the crime of Manslaughter in the Second Degree. On December 7, 2018, the Court sentenced Mr. Richards to a maximum sentence of five years in prison. A minimum of four years was given. The Court cited the following was taken into account – defendant's age at the time of offense, criminal history, facts of the case, and circumstances of the defendant.

**PRIOR CRIMINAL / RISK RELATED CONDUCT:**

**Mr. Richards began getting arrested for criminal behavior beginning in 1977 and continuing until 2015. His index offense occurred in 1980, but was an unsolved cold case until 2015.**

- 1984 – Robbery in the Second Degree, King County Cause No. 83-1-02072-3.
- 1985 – Burglary in the Second Degree, King County Cause No. 83-1-02462-1.
- 1985 – Poss. of Stolen Property in the Second Degree, King County Cause No. 85-1-03170-5.
- 1989 – Attempting to Elude a Pursuing Police Vehicle, Clark County Cause No. 89-1-00576-0.
- 1989 – Possession of Stolen Property in the Second Degree, Clark County
- 1989 – Assault in the Second Degree, King County Cause No. 89-1-05407-4.
- 1991 – Taking Motor Vehicle Without Permission, King County Cause No. 91-1-01393-1.

- 1994 – Theft in the Second Degree, three counts, Kitsap County Cause No. 94-1-01018-1.
- 1994 – Theft in the First Degree, Kitsap County Cause No. 94-1-01018-1.
- 1995 – Attempt to Elude a Pursuing Police Vehicle, King County Cause No. 95-1-03321-7.
- 1996 - Property Destruction
- 1997 – Indecent Exposure; Assault in the Fourth Degree; False Report.
- 1999 – Reckless Burning in the First Degree, King County Cause No. 99-1-04943-4.
- 2000 – DUI
- 2004 – DUI; Assault in the Fourth Degree – Domestic Violence
- 2005 – Malicious Mischief in the Third Degree
- 2006 – Operating a Vehicle without Ignition Interlock; Driving While License Suspended in the Third Degree; Criminal Trespass
- 2009 – Harassment – Domestic Violence
- 2012 – Criminal Trespass in the First Degree
- 2014 – DUI
- 2015 – Violation of a Court Order - Domestic Violence

**Adult Misdemeanor:**

- 1985 – Theft
- 1988 – Receive Stolen Property; Criminal Trespass
- 1989 – Possession of Marijuana; Theft in the Third Degree; Violation of Uniform Control
- 1991 – Theft
- 1992 – Menacing; Property Destruction; Resisting; Theft; Vehicle Prowling; Theft in the Third Degree
- 1994 – Assault in the Fourth Degree – Domestic Violence; Malicious Mischief (x2); Criminal Trespass in the First Degree; Driving Under the Influence (DUI) (x2)

**Juvenile Felony:**

Appendix B to Plea Agreement attached to the Judgement and Sentence dated December 7, 2018 indicates Mr. Richards has five felony convictions between 1977 and 1980. Only the cause numbers are listed, not the crimes.

**PROGRESS/BEHAVIOR:**

Classification Counselor Wilkerson testified that Mr. Richards is employed as a Custodian on the living unit. He has not participated in any offender change programming nor has he received any infractions during this incarceration.

Mr. Richards refused to discuss the killing of the victim in 1980 and indicated he may still appeal his case and he didn't receive the sentence he was promised. At his previous hearing Mr. Richards indicated that he agreed with most of the facts of his index offense as outlined in file information, though he claimed the victim was still alive when he left his apartment. Mr. Richards's version of events at that time was that he was defending himself against a sexual assault by the victim and he was in a knife fight with his victim, just trying to leave the apartment.

Mr. Richards simply wants to be released from custody and left to live his life as he sees fit. He believes he is a sober man now and has no plans to consume alcohol in the future. He claims his mother desperately needs him at home as do his teenage children. He also indicated he has a girlfriend of 21 years in Nebraska and has inherited land in Wisconsin which he may move to.

He will not be required to submit an offender release plan for investigation nor will he be supervised upon release. It will be up to Mr. Richards to resist engaging in criminal activity upon release.

LRG: ch

July 29, 2020

August 17, 2020

August 18, 2020

cc: Institution  
Attorney  
File



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

TO: Full Board  
FROM: Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey (Christine Hunter)  
RE: RICHARDS, Douglas DOC #298532

Panel recommends: Not parolable. Affirm previous decision to extend to statutory maximum.

Next action: Release on maximum expiration of 3-22-2021

Agree	Disagree
<b>Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 8-17-2020</b> <b>Elyse Balmert 8-17-2020</b> <b>Jeff Patnode 8-17-2020</b> <b>TaTeasha Davis 8-17-2020</b> <b>Kecia Rongen 8-17-2020</b>	