



Decision and Reasons Summary

Note: This is a summary of the Decision and Reasons dated August 11, 2025, and should not be substituted for the full document.

Incarcerated Individual Nicholson, Robert	DOC# 126645	Date: July 30, 2025	Case Type: PAR
Decision: Not Parolable	Additional Release Information: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add 60 months to Minimum Term (MT). <input type="checkbox"/> Extends to Maximum Expiration. <input type="checkbox"/> Reaffirms prior Decision to hold to Max Expiration. <input type="checkbox"/> As of the Earned Release Date of the current cause/count. <input type="checkbox"/> As of the date of this decision. <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to next available Docket for .		

Next Action: Schedule a .100 Hearing approximately 120 days prior to PERD.

- ☐ The Board may consider a cut in time.
- ☒ Psychological Evaluation is needed for the next hearing.

Recommendations:

- ☒ Sex Offense Treatment and Assessment Program (SOTAP), if eligible.
- ☒ Other Programs, if eligible. Such as: Thinking for a Change, Redemption, Bridges to Life, Alternatives to Violence, Domestic Violence Treatment.
- ☒ Remain infraction free and have positive interactions with staff.
- ☒ Develop a release plan/community support.
- ☒ Other: Participate in next psychological evaluation.



Decision and Reasons

Incarcerated Individual Nicholson, Robert	DOC# 126645	Facility Coyote Ridge Corrections Center	Type of Hearing .100
Date of Hearing July 30, 2025	Final Decision Date August 11, 2025	Panel Members Jill Getty Jeff Patnode	

I. DECISION/LEGAL STANDARD

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. This statute directs the Board to not release an individual unless in the Board's opinion, his or her rehabilitation has been completed, and he or she is a fit subject for release. Consequently, the Board finds Robert Nicholson not parolable and adds 60 months to the minimum term.

At the time of sentencing, the judge did not make a recommendation. The Prosecutor stated, "This man is extremely dangerous and should never be released from custody unless competent psychiatric evaluation would deem it certain that he was sufficiently changed to be at large and present no threat of further similar crimes. The minimum term of sentence should be life".

In addition, the Board received a letter from the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office dated May 15, 2025, requesting that the Board find Mr. Nicholson not parolable.

NEXT ACTION: Schedule a .100 Hearing approximately 120 days prior to PERD. However, the Board may be willing to schedule Mr. Nicholson early upon successful completion of the Sex Offense Treatment and Assessment Program (SOTAP). Also, an updated Psychological Evaluation will be required for the next hearing.



II. JURISDICTION

Robert Nicholson is under the jurisdiction of the Board on a November 7, 1968, conviction on Pierce County Cause #37141 for Rape. The time start is February 6, 1976. The minimum term was set at 264 months from a Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) range of 149 to 198 months. The statutory maximum term is Life. Mr. Nicholson has served approximately 593 months in prison with 0 days of Jail or Phelan credit during the initial period of confinement.

III. LAST BOARD DECISION

The Board last met with Mr. Nicholson on July 18, 2023, in a .100 Hearing. He was found not releasable, and 36 months were added to the minimum term. In his last hearing, Mr. Nicholson advised that although he had not been willing previously, he would now participate in screening for the DOC Sex Offense Treatment and Assessment Program (SOTAP) and a psychological evaluation prior to his next ISRB Hearing.

IV. OFFENSE DESCRIPTION

File materials indicate that Mr. Nicholson sexually assaulted three unknown women between the ages of 18 and 24 years old in their homes over the course of five nights. He was armed with a knife, and he unlawfully entered the victim's residences and terrorized and brutally raped them.

V. OTHER RISK RELATED BEHAVIOR¹

Mr. Nicholson has a 1969 conviction for Escape from Lawful Custody: King County Cause #48450. He escaped while being escorted from jail for medical treatment. He had been jailed for prior

¹ Risk related means, behavior that may be unadjudicated, charged and/or convicted that may contribute to an individual's risk to reoffend sexually because it shows a pattern of illegal sexual behavior and is often included in validated risk assessments included for scoring purposes. Other criminal convictions that include violence against a person show a criminal versatility in an individual, thus increasing risk for any offense, including a sex offense. Illegal behavior related to, or abuse of drugs or alcohol can decrease a person's ability to control their impulsivity and engage in problem solving and utilize coping strategies to reduce their risk.



convictions under King County Cause #47402 for Assault 2nd Degree, Count I, Attempted Rape, Counts II & III, Assault 1st Degree, Counts IV - VI, and Rape, Counts VII & VIII. File material describes that Mr. Nicholson grabbed a 28-year-old woman at a bus stop, dragging her into nearby blackberry bushes and threatened her with a handgun and a knife, then violently raped her and took \$1 from her purse. Subsequent to his arrest, three additional female victims identified Mr. Nicholson as the man who had also sexually assaulted them. Mr. Nicholson grabbed the three additional victims from behind while they were walking and dragged them into nearby bushes. He sexually assaulted one of the additional victims and removed the clothing and laid on top of the other two victims. Mr. Nicholson was also armed with a gun or a knife in two of the additional incidents. The three additional victims were all between the ages of 13 and 15 years old.

In 1967 Mr. Nicholson was charged with Second-Degree Burglary in Yakima County. Reports indicate that he entered the home of a female and assaulted her while placing a knife to her throat. Mr. Nicholson tied her arms and legs and tore off her pajamas and molested her. He also stole money and other items from the victim which were recovered in his wife's home when he was arrested. There is no disposition noted for this offense.

As a juvenile, in 1960, Mr. Nicholson was convicted of Burglary and Larceny and committed to George Junior Republic facility.

VI. EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

The Board considered the evidence presented at the hearing and reviewed Robert Nicholson's ISRB file. The hearing was audio recorded and will be retained according to the retention schedules. Testimony was provided by the following individuals:

- **Classification Counselor: David Ewing**
- **Robert Nicholson**



The file review included the following documents:

- ☒ End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) Reports dated: 4/19/18
- ☐ Criminal case records:
- ☒ Psychological Evaluations: **Dated 3/3/25 by Dr. Robtoy**
- ☒ DOC Treatment and behavioral reports dated: **Mental Health Encounter Report dated 2/13/25**
- ☒ Risk Assessments (Static, SOTIPS etc.):
 - **Static-99R** is an actuarial risk prediction instrument designed to estimate the probability of sexual and violent recidivism. It is the most widely used sex offender risk assessment instrument in the world.
 - Hare Psychopathy Checklist-REVISED (**PCL-R**) indicates the extent to which the individual has psychopathic tendencies.
 - Violence Risk Assessment Guide-Revised (**VRAG-R**) is a 12-item actuarial scale designed to predict violent recidivism.
- ☐ Findings and Conclusion (F&C) Dated:
- ☒ Prior Decision & Reasons (D&R) Dated: **7/18/23**
- ☒ DOC OMNI Records
- ☒ Other: **Letter dated 5/15/25 from Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney; Letter from Mr. Nicholson received 6/16/25**

VII. FINDINGS

- a. In preparation for this hearing, Robert Nicholson was advised of their hearing rights.
- b. Robert Nicholson appeared appeared by video conference. He was represented by attorney Darrel Lahtinen.



c. The Board has considered all potential Conditions of Supervision it may lawfully impose, including all potential conditions identified by the End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC), DOC psychological evaluations, and RCW 9.94A.704. These conditions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Drug/Alcohol Restrictions
- Electronic Monitoring
- Geographic Restrictions
- Participation in Sex Offense Treatment
- Prohibited Contacts
- Sexually Explicit Material
- Submit to Polygraphs
- Unapproved Relationships

d. The Board has considered the evidence favorable to Robert Nicholson's release determination, including the following:

- ☒ Treatment/Programming: **Completed Financial Literacy and Beekeeping class; participating in religious programs and employment with positive reviews.**
- ☒ Protective Factors: **No serious infractions in 25 years.**
- ☐ Risk Assessment Scores:
- ☐ Insight into sexual offending behavior
- ☒ Other Evidence: **Age and physical condition may mitigate risk.**

e. The Board has considered the evidence against **Robert Nicholson's** conditional release (WAC 381-60-160), examples of adequate reasons for a finding of non-parolability include, but are not limited to:

- ☒ Active refusal to participate in available programs or resources designed to assist in reducing an incarcerated individual's risk of re-offense (e.g., anger management,



substance abuse treatment). He stated that there must have been miscommunication in his last hearing, and that he was not willing to participate in the DOC SOTAP. Mr. Nicholson further advised that he does not live in the past and would not discuss his offense history stating that he was “not admitting to nothing anymore”.

- ☐ Serious and repetitive disciplinary infractions during incarceration.
- ☐ Evidence of an incarcerated individual’s continuing intent or propensity to engage in illegal activities (e.g., victim harassment, criminal conduct while incarcerated, continued use of illegal substances).
- ☒ Statements or declarations by the incarcerated individual that he or she intends to re-offend or does not intent to comply with conditions of parole. **When asked whether he would be willing to abide by conditions of parole, Mr. Nicholson stated that it would depend on the condition but advised he would comply with basic parole conditions. In addition, he again refused to participate in a psychological evaluation completed in preparation for this hearing, and the evaluator stated they were not convinced that Mr. Nicholson possessed the skills or willingness necessary to comply with conditions of parole.**
- ☒ Evidence that an incarcerated individual presents a substantial danger to the community if released. **A 2025 Psychological Evaluation determined Mr. Nicholson to be a moderate risk for re-offense and opined that he was not a good candidate for release.**
- ☒ Other: **The ESRC SVP Subcommittee has recommended that a Forensic Psychological Evaluation (FPE) be conducted prior to a finding of parole.**

- f. The Conditions of Supervision, and any favorable evidence noted above considered by the Board would not sufficiently reduce the likelihood of **Robert Nicholson** committing new offenses because:



- **Mr. Nicholson is a Level 3 for community notification and has been estimated to be a moderate risk for re-offense. In addition, the ESRC Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Subcommittee recommended that a Forensic Psychological Evaluation be completed to assess whether Mr. Nicholson meets SVP criteria PRIOR to a finding of parole. Only a small percentage of the highest risk sex offenders are reviewed for and selected by the ESRC SVP Subcommittee for an FPE, indicative of the risk Mr. Nicholson presents at this time.**
 - **Despite stating he would be willing to participate in DOC SOTAP and his next psychological evaluation in his last hearing, Mr. Nicholson refused to discuss his offense history in today's hearing, and stated he was not willing to participate in either sex offense treatment or a psychological evaluation as he was not interested in talking about the past.**
 - **Mr. Nicholson has not participated in offense specific treatment programs to identify his high risks or develop interventions to mitigate risk.**
 - **His conduct in today's hearing causes the Board concern about his ability to comply with parole.**
- g. Based on the requirements of RCW 9.95.009(3) and RCW 9.95.100 and after weighing all of the totality of the evidence, including the community custody conditions and any favorable evidence noted above, the Board finds that **Robert Nicholson** is not parolable and adds 60 months to their minimum term.**

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.



VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☒ Sex Offense Treatment and Assessment Program (SOTAP), if eligible.
- ☒ Other Programs, if eligible. Such as: Thinking for a Change, Redemption, Bridges to Life, Alternatives to Violence, Domestic Violence Treatment.
- ☒ Remain infraction free and have positive interactions with staff.
- ☒ Develop a release plan/community support.
- ☒ Other: Participate in next psychological evaluation.

JG ch

Date Typed: 7/31/2025

cc: Facility: **Coyote Ridge Corrections Center**
Robert Nicholson, Incarcerated Individual
File



TO: Full Board

FROM: **Jill Getty (CH)**

RE: **Nicholson, Robert** DOC #126645

Panel recommends: Not Parolable and adds 60 months to the minimum term.

Next Action: Schedule a .100/.420/JUVBRD Hearing approximately 120 days prior to ERD.

AGREE (initial and date)	DISAGREE (initial and date)
Corey McNally 8/11/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Jeff Patnode 8/11/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Jill Getty 8/11/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Meghan Kelly-Stallings 8/11/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Kecia Rongen 8/11/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.