



Decision and Reasons Summary

Note: This is a summary of the Decision and Reasons dated August 25, 2025, and should not be substituted for the full document.

Incarcerated Individual Johnston, Curtis	DOC# 287264	Date: August 19, 2025	Case Type: PAR
Decision: Not Parolable	Additional Release Information: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add 72 months to Minimum Term (MT). <input type="checkbox"/> Extends to Maximum Expiration. <input type="checkbox"/> Reaffirms prior Decision to hold to Max Ex. <input type="checkbox"/> As of the ERD 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.

Additional Information: The Board understands that the Department of Corrections may be considering Mr. Johnston for an Emergency Medical Placement (EMP).

Recommendations:

- ☒ Mental Health Treatment (including any prescribed medications), if eligible.
- ☒ Remain infraction free and have positive interactions with staff.
- ☒ Other: If released on Emergency Medical Placement - comply with conditions related to this release.



Decision and Reasons

Incarcerated Individual Johnston, Curtis	DOC# 287264	Facility Airway Heights Corrections Center	Type of Hearing .100
Date of Hearing August 19, 2025	Final Decision Date August 25, 2025	Panel Members Corey McNally Jill Getty	

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 Curtis Johnston not parolable and adds 72 months to the minimum term.

The Judge and prosecutor recommended Mr. Johnston remain in prison for the rest of his natural life.

NEXT ACTION: Schedule a .100 Hearing approximately 120 days prior to Parole Eligibility Review Date (PERD).

II. JURISDICTION

Curtis Johnston is under the jurisdiction of the Board on April 17, 1973, conviction on Walla Walla County Cause #61716 for Murder in the First Degree. The time start is April 17, 1973. The minimum term was set at 300 months from a Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) range of 240 to 320 months. The statutory maximum term is Life. Mr. Johnston has served approximately 628 months in prison and 173 days of jail/Phelan time during the initial period of confinement.



III. LAST BOARD DECISION

Mr. Johnston was scheduled for a .100 hearing in February 2025, however it was determined Mr. Johnston was not able to meaningfully participate in the hearing due to significant cognitive and medical decline. It was decided that a guardian needed to be appointed along with attorney representation. Upon the appointment of a Guardian, Ms. Sherry Wamba, a .100 hearing was scheduled on the next available docket. On May 21, 2025, the Board agreed Mr. Johnston appeared to be low enough risk to be appropriate for the Emergency Medical Placement (EMP) as approved by the Department.

The Board last saw Mr. Johnston in a .100 hearing September 17, 2019 at which time, he was found not parolable, and 90 months were added. The Board recommended Mr. Johnson focuses on complying with mental health treatment and attend risk-related programming.

IV. OFFENSE DESCRIPTION

Mr. Johnston (age 31) shot and killed 32-year-old businessman and civic leader. He shot the victim in the back twice with a shotgun. He stalked the victim for two days before the murder. No motive was ever established. A 1975 psychological evaluation state he reported eight Adventist men told him to kill the victim because the victim was blocking the sale of land for a new hospital. It was noted this was part of his delusional disorder.



OTHER RISK RELATED BEHAVIOR¹

9-25-1963 (Juvenile) Murder second degree: Mr. Johnston was confined at Eastern State Hospital for shooting and killing his father with a rifle. He was initially Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity and in 1965 was found to be sane and released from Eastern State Hospital.

Additional: It is noted Mr. Johnston attempted to kill his wife by pushing her off a waterfall into the Snake River. He assaulted a patient at ESH with the intent to kill them as well. There is record he had plans to kill others after killing his father and the record provides no additional details.

V. EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

The Board considered the evidence presented at the hearing and reviewed Curtis Johnston'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:** Daniell Douglas
- Curtis Johnston
- **Psychiatric Social Worker:** Haley Hanson
- **Guardian:** Sherry Wamba

The file review included the following documents:

- ☐ End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) Reports dated:
- ☒ Criminal case records:
- ☒ Psychological Evaluations: **4-29-19**

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.



- ☒ DOC Treatment and behavioral reports dated: **DOC Mental Health records**
- ☒ Risk Assessments (Static, SOTIPS etc.):
 - ***Violence Risk Assessment Guide-Revised (VRAG-R)*** is a 12-item actuarial scale designed to predict violent recidivism.
 - ***HCR-20v3*** is an instrument that organizes known risk factors into three categories: historical, clinical, and risk management. Using past, present, and future factors the HCR-20v3 assesses dynamic risk for recidivism.
- ☐ Findings and Conclusion (F&C) Dated:
- ☒ Prior Decision & Reasons (D&R) Dated: **9-30-19**
- ☒ DOC OMNI Records
- ☒ Other:
 - **Survivor letter 7-29-25**
 - **Emails related to not needing an updated psychological evaluation.**
 - **Letters of Guardianship/Conservatorship 5-13-25**
 - **Recommendation of Judge and Prosecuting Attorney 10-26-89**

VI. FINDINGS

- a. In preparation for this hearing, Curtis Johnston/Guardian Sherry Wamba was advised of their hearing rights.
- b. Curtis Johnston appeared appeared by video conference. Curtis Johnston/Guardian Sherry Wamba was represented by attorney Brandon West.
- 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:
 - Electronic Monitoring
 - Geographic Restrictions



- Mental Health Treatment Compliance
- d. The Board has considered the evidence favorable to Curtis Johnston's release determination, including the following:
- ☐ Treatment/Programming:
 - ☒ Protective Factors:
 - **Last serious infraction occurred in 2023.**
 - **Has become medication compliant with prescribed mental health medications.**
 - ☐ Risk Assessment Scores:
 - ☐ Insight into sexual offending behavior
 - ☒ Other Evidence: **Significant decline in both mental capacity and an increase in severity of medical complications.**
- e. The Board has considered the evidence against Curtis Johnston's conditional release ([WAC 381-60-160](#)), examples of adequate reasons for a finding of non-parolability include, but are not limited to:
- ☒ Inability 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). **Mr. Johnston's mental health and now medical complications have prevented him from engaging in rehabilitative programming. It hasn't been until the recent history he has taken any mental health medications consistently leading to an improvement in his behavior.**
 - ☒ Serious and repetitive disciplinary infractions during incarceration. **Since his last hearing, he has earned 2 serious infractions for assaulting staff 3-30-22 and 2-23-23.**
 - ☐ 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.
 - ☐ Evidence that an incarcerated individual presents a substantial danger to the community if released.
- f. The Conditions of Supervision, and any favorable evidence noted above considered by the Board would not sufficiently reduce the likelihood of Curtis Johnston committing new offenses because:
- **Mr. Johnston is unable to participate in rehabilitative programming/efforts due to his severe mental illness and more recently substantial medical and cognitive decline.**
 - **Mr. Johnston's inability to try and become rehabilitated does not meet the legal standard outlined in RCW 9.95.100 which requires the Board to find an individual not parolable unless they are fully rehabilitated and a fit subject for release.**
 - **Since his last hearing he has engaged in two staff assaults resulting in serious infractions and being moved from one facility to another. Further, he has earned 3 negative Behavioral Observation Entries and no positive.**
 - **Mr. Johnston's recent decrease/lack of serious infractions is not the equivalent of being rehabilitated.**
- 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 Curtis Johnston not parolable and adds 72 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](#).

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☒ Mental Health Treatment (including any prescribed medications), if eligible.
- ☒ Remain infraction free and have positive interactions with staff.
- ☒ Other: If released on Emergency Medical Placement- comply with conditions related to this release.

CM vj

Date Typed: 8/19/2025

cc: Facility: Airway Heights Corrections Center
Curtis Johnston, Incarcerated Individual
File



TO: Full Board

FROM: **Corey McNally (VJ)**

RE: **Johnston, Curtis DOC #287264**

Panel recommends: Not Releasable. Add 72 months to the minimum term.

The Board understands that the Department of Corrections may be considering Mr. Johnston for an Emergency Medical Placement (EMP).

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

AGREE (initial and date)	DISAGREE (initial and date)
Corey McNally 8/25/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Jeff Patnode 8/25/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Jill Getty 8/25/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Meghan Kelly-Stallings 8/25/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
Kecia Rongen 8/25/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.