



Decision and Reasons Summary

Note: This is a summary of the Decision and Reasons dated October 6, 2025, and should not be substituted for the full document.

Incarcerated Individual Richards, Travis	DOC# 747386	Date: September 16, 2025	Case Type: LT JUVBRD
Decision: Releasable	Additional Release Information: ☐ Add months to Minimum Term (MT). ☐ Extends to Maximum Expiration. ☐ Reaffirms prior Decision to hold to Max Expiration. ☐ As of the Earned Release Date (ERD) of the current cause/count. ☐ As of the date of this decision. ☐ Continued to next available Docket for .		

Next Action: Submit an Offender Release Plan (ORP) for consideration.

Additional Information (if applicable):

Recommendations:

- ☒ Continue with mental health treatment upon release into the community.
- ☒ Strong controls around alcohol use.
- ☒ Strong controls around drug use.
- ☒ Strong controls around minor contact.
- ☐ Strong controls around relationships.
- ☒ Internet Monitoring
- ☐ Electronic Monitoring
- ☐ Sober Support Groups
- ☒ Other: **Since Mr. Richards' victim was younger and more physically vulnerable, Mr. Richards should be restricted from having unsupervised contact with minors or other vulnerable individuals, especially during his initial transition to community.**



Decision and Reasons

Incarcerated Individual Richards, Travis	DOC# 747386	Facility Stafford Creek Corrections Center	Type of Hearing LT JUVBRD RCW 9.94A.730
Date of Hearing September 16, 2025	Final Decision Date October 6, 2025	Panel Members Meghan Kelly-Stallings Corey McNally	

I. DECISION/LEGAL STANDARD

This matter came before the above-named Board Members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) for the third hearing pursuant to RCW 9.94A.730. This statute establishes a presumption of release unless rebutted by a preponderance of evidence. After considering the possible conditions of release and the remaining evidence, the Board finds Travis Richards is not more likely than not to commit a future crime if released. Consequently, the Board finds Travis Richards releasable.

NEXT ACTION: Submit an Offender Release Plan (ORP) for consideration.

II. JURISDICTION

Mr. Richards is incarcerated on a 1996 conviction in Clark County: Cause #95-1-00837-2 for Murder in the First Degree. The time start is February 16, 1996. The Court set the minimum original confinement term for 564 months from the Sentencing Reform Act range of 240 to 320 months. The statutory maximum term is Life. Mr. Richards has served approximately 335 months in prison plus 271 days in jail.

Enacted in 2014, [RCW 9.94A.730](#) allows certain 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. Travis Richards filed a petition which resulted in the scheduling of the current hearing.

III. LAST BOARD DECISION

Mr. Richards was last seen by the Board on September 13, 2022. The Board found Mr. Richards not releasable and he was advised that he could submit a new petition in September of 2024. The Board recommended that Mr. Richards complete substance abuse disorder/chemical dependency treatment and other risk-reduction programming. The Board further advised Mr. Richards to remain infraction-free, continue developing his release plan and to build more community support.

IV. OFFENSE DESCRIPTION

Mr. Richards, age 16, killed his 11-year-old neighbor by beating him with a pool cue and manually strangling him to death. Richards then hid the victim in the crawl space of the Richards' family home, where he was ultimately found four days later. As police searched for the missing boy, Richards participated in news interviews, feigning sympathy for his victim's family and offering to help search for the victim.

V. OTHER RISK RELATED BEHAVIOR¹

Mr. Richards has five juvenile convictions: Malicious Mischief in the 3rd Degree (1992); Assault in the 4th Degree (1992); Theft in the 3rd Degree (1993), Malicious Mischief (1993) and Harassment (1993). In his 2021 Psychological Evaluation, Mr. Richards admitted murdering animals during his childhood.

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.



VI. EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

The Board considered the evidence presented at the hearing and reviewed Travis Richards'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 Jordan Wakeman**
- **Travis Richards**

The file review included the following documents:

- ☐ End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) Reports dated:
- ☒ Criminal case records: **Judgement and Sentence dated 2/15/1996; police reports.**
- ☒ Psychological Evaluations: **Psychological Evaluation performed by Dr. Lisa Robtoy, dated 5/9/2025; Psychological Evaluation performed by Dr. Lisa Robtoy, dated 12/13/2021.**
- ☒ DOC Treatment and behavioral reports dated: **Substance Use Disorder Discharge Summary and Continued Care Plan dated 1/12/2023; Primary Encounter Report dated 3/14/2024; Mental Health Encounter Reports and Primary Encounter Reports dated 2016-2024.**
- ☒ Risk Assessments (Static, SOTIPS etc.):
 - ***Violence Risk Assessment Guide-Revised (VRAG-R)*** is a 12-item actuarial scale designed to predict violent recidivism.
 - ***Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R)*** indicates the extent to which the individual has psychopathic tendencies.
 - ***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.
 - ***Saint Louis University Mental Status examination (SLUMS)*** is a brief screening tool to assess cognitive functioning.
 - ***The Paulhus Deception Scales (PDS)*** is a self-report instrument that identifies individuals who, when responding to assessments and rating scales, distort their responses.
- ☐ Findings and Conclusion (F&C) Dated:
- ☒ Prior Decision & Reasons (D&R) Dated: **9/26/2022, 8/2/2016**



☐ DOC OMNI Records

☐ Other:

VII. FINDINGS

- In preparation for this hearing, on September 23, 2025, Travis Richards was provided with the evidence considered by the Board and was advised of their hearing rights.
- Travis Richards appeared by video conference. Travis Richards was represented by attorney Katherine Daley.
- The Board has considered all potential conditions of community custody it may lawfully impose, including all potential conditions identified by 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
 - Mental Health Treatment Compliance
 - Participation in Drug/Alcohol Treatment
 - Prohibited Contacts
 - Submit to Polygraphs
 - Unapproved Relationships
- The Board has considered the evidence in support of Travis Richards' release determination, including the following:
 - ☒ Treatment/Programming: **SUD treatment 2.5 (2023), academic/vocational classes between 2022-2014, change programming between 2014-2017.**
 - ☒ Protective Factors: **Mr. Richards would have reintegration support from the Seattle Clemency Project, which includes help with finding employment and connecting him with mental health care and mentoring programs. He also has family and financial support from his mother, sister, and stepfather.**



- ☒ Risk Assessment Scores: **In 2021, Mr. Richards's VRAG-R scored in bin 8 of 9, which indicates a moderate-high risk to reoffend (58% reoffended within 5 years, 78% reoffended within 12 years.) In 2022, however, he scored in bin 6 of 9, which indicates a lower risk to reoffend (34% within 5 years, 60% within 12 years.) He was not rescored prior to his 2025 evaluation.**
- ☒ Psychological Evaluations: **In her 2025 evaluation, Dr. Lisa Robtoy considers Mr. Richards to be a *"reasonable candidate to be considered for early release by the ISRB."***
- ☒ Other Evidence: **Packet submitted by Katherine Daley, Mr. Richards's attorney from the Seattle Clemency Project, detailing factors that support Mr. Richards's petition for early release, including two additional letters of support.**
- The Board has considered the evidence against Travis Richards's release:
 - ☐ Refusal to participate in available programs or resources designed to assist in reducing an incarcerated individual's risk to reoffend.
 - ☒ Serious and repetitive disciplinary infractions during incarceration. **26 serious infractions between 1996 and 2019. However, he has not had any violence-related infractions in 25 years and has received no serious infractions since 2019.**
 - ☐ Evidence of an incarcerated individual's continuing intent or propensity to engage in sex offenses.
 - ☐ Statements or declarations by the incarcerated individual of the intent not to comply with conditions of community custody.
 - ☐ End of sentence review determination based on actuarial assessments identifying risk to sexually reoffend.
 - ☒ Psychological Evaluations. **Dr. Lisa Robtoy's 2025 evaluation points out that Mr. Richards's crime was *"calculated, extremely violent, and demonstrated callous disregard for a person more vulnerable than him."* She opines that he *"continues to possess some risk factors for future violence"* while acknowledging that he has**



participated in relevant risk programming to address those factors, demonstrated an extended period of non-violent behavior and developed prosocial hobbies and social skills.

☐ Other evidence:

- The community custody conditions, and any favorable evidence noted above considered by the Board would sufficiently reduce the likelihood of Travis Richards committing new offenses because:
 - **Mr. Richards testified openly about the callous, cruel nature of his crime. He did not appear to deny or minimize any information found in file material or previously stated to the Board. Mr. Richards expressed remorse for the lasting harm he has caused to many people and stated that he does not wish to return to the community where he grew up, since that's where the victim's family continues to reside.**
 - **Mr. Richards has continuously sought out mental health care while in prison, despite not having a diagnosed condition that requires regular treatment. Records indicate that he expressed regret over his crime and wanted to better understand what factors may have led him to commit the crime. He states that he plans to continue therapy if he is released into the community. Continuing mental health support will likely reduce Mr. Richards's risk of committing future crimes.**
 - **Mr. Richards has had no disciplinary issues in prison since 2019. He has only received positive/neutral behavioral observations since 12/2021 and has been able to maintain steady employment. He has not had any infractions involving violence in 25 years. This suggests an ability to comply with conditions of supervision.**



- **Mr. Richards provided a reasonable release plan and will have access to resources offered by the Seattle Clemency Project, as well as emotional and financial support from immediate family.**
- **Mr. Richards has completed numerous risk reduction/change programs, most recently for substance use disorder (SUD) in 2023. He states that while he regularly took drugs prior to his incarceration, he has not taken drugs since 2009.**
- After weighing all of the evidence, including the community custody conditions and any favorable evidence noted above, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Travis Richards is not more likely than not to commit a new crime if released with conditions that are designed to help better prepare them for a successful re-entry into society.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☒ Continue with mental health treatment upon release into the community.
- ☒ Strong controls around alcohol use.
- ☒ Strong controls around drug use.
- ☒ Strong controls around minor contact.
- ☐ Strong controls around relationships.
- ☒ Internet Monitoring
- ☐ Electronic Monitoring
- ☐ Sober Support Groups
- ☒ Other: **Since Mr. Richards' victim was younger and more physically vulnerable, Mr. Richards should be restricted from having unsupervised contact with minors or other vulnerable individuals, especially during his initial transition to community.**

MKS hd

Date Typed: 10/1/2025

cc: Facility: **Stafford Creek Corrections Center**
Travis Richards, Incarcerated Individual
File



TO: Full Board

FROM: **Meghan Kelly-Stallings (HD)**

RE: Richards, Travis DOC #747386

Panel recommends: Releasable.

Next Action: **Submit an Offender Release Plan (ORP) for consideration.**

AGREE (initial and date)	DISAGREE (initial and date)
Corey McNally 10/6/2025	Jill Getty 10/6/2025
Meghan Kelly-Stallings 10/6/2025	Jeff Patnode 10/6/2025
Kecia Rongen 10/6/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
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