



PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA DECISION

OFFENDER INFORMATION :

Name : **DEJAEGER, ERIC JOSE**

FPS : [REDACTED]

Institution : [REDACTED]

FILE NO : [REDACTED]

TYPE OF REVIEW :

- STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL. (PAPER)

PANEL INFORMATION :

OBSERVER (S) PRESENT (except during deliberations) : **NO**
 EXCLUDED FROM PART OF HEARING : **NOT APPLICABLE**
 REASON : **NOT APPLICABLE**

ASSISTANT PRESENT : **NO**
 ELDER /ADVISOR : **NO**

FINAL DECISIONS :

STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL.

CHANGE CONDITION

2022-05-19

TO IMPOSE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL CONDITIONS ON YOUR STATUTORY RELEASE

LEAVE PRIVILEGES :

LEAVE PRIVILEGE FOR **STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL. - REGULAR**

MUST RETURN TO FACIL. NIGHTLY

No Leave Privileges - you must return to the residential facility nightly.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS :

**STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL.**

Condition	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESIDE AT A SPECIFIC PLACE Reside at a designated community-based residential facility or psychiatric facility approved by the Correctional Service of Canada.	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FOLLOW TREATMENT PLAN Follow treatment plan / program to be arranged by your parole supervisor in the area of sexual deviancy.	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OTHER SPECIAL CONDITION Not to seek or obtain employment or volunteer in any capacity that involves being in a position of trust or authority over a person under the age of 18 years.	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REPORT RELATIONSHIPS Immediately report all sexual and non sexual relationships and friendships with females and any changes to the status of the relationships/friendships to your parole supervisor. This includes reporting to your parole supervisor all intimate sexual and non-sexual relationships with anyone who has parental responsibilities for children under the age of 18 years.	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO CONTACT WITH CHILDREN Not to be in the presence of any children under the age of 18 unless accompanied by a responsible adult who knows his criminal history and has been previously approved, in writing, by parole supervisor.	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO CONTACT WITH VICTIM(S) No direct or indirect contact with the victims or the victims' family members.	IMPOSED

PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED SPECIAL CONDITION(S) STILL IN EFFECT : NOT APPLICABLE

NEW INFORMATION SHARED WITH THE OFFENDER : NOT APPLICABLE

REASONS FOR DECISION(S) :

The Parole Board of Canada (the Board) reviewed your case by way of an in-office review to make a decision about imposing special conditions, including a residency condition, on your statutory release.

To make its decision, the Board must determine whether special conditions on your release are reasonable and necessary in order to protect society and to facilitate your successful reintegration into society. The Board may also require that you reside in a community-based residential facility or a psychiatric facility if it is satisfied that, in the absence of such a condition, you will present an undue risk to society by committing, before the expiration of your sentence, an offence set out in Schedule I or an offence under section 467.11, 467.12, or 467.13 of the Criminal Code.

The Board received on April 20, 2022 your letter outlining why you do not believe you should have to reside at a community residential facility (CRF) or community correctional centre (CCC).

Following a review of your file the Board has imposed a residency condition, along with additional special conditions.



You are a 75-year-old federal recidivist serving an 11-year sentence for Rape (X3), Buggery (x4), Bestiality, Indecent Assault Male (X15), Indecent Assault Female (X11), Sexual Assault, and Forcible Confinement. Along with the custodial sentence, you were ordered to provide a sample of your DNA for databank purposes and the courts imposed a weapons prohibition and a Section 161 order for life. You are also required to adhere to the Sex Offender Information Registration Act (SOIRA) for life. You were sentenced in February 2015 for one set of offences and sentenced in October 2015 for another set of offences.

You committed the index offences between 1974 and 1982 while you were studying to become a priest and while an ordained priest posted in a parish. There are over 25 victims of your sexual offending. The victims are both male and female. The majority of the victims were between the ages of nine and 13, however, two victims were adults and some were as young as five or six years old. The sexual offences involved fondling, masturbation, oral sex, and vaginal and anal intercourse. You used your position as a priest and groomed victims. File information indicates you often used physical force to gain compliance and, in some instances, you hit or threatened victims in order to ensure that they followed your direction. File information also indicates you had intercourse with your pet dog.

The criteria for serious harm is met. Numerous victims submitted victim impact statements to the court at the time of sentencing. You caused the victims devastating emotional and psychological harm, in addition to physical injuries.

Your prior criminal record consists of your previous federal sentence also related to sexual offending. In April 1990, you received a five-year sentence for Sexual Assault (X8) and Indecent Assault on Male. According to file information, you committed sexual offences against three boys and five girls between 1982 and 1989. The victims were between the ages of nine and 17. In June 1991, you received a concurrent sentence for Sexual Assault (X2). These offences involved sexual assaults committed against young boys.

Following the completion of your federal sentence in 1995, you were charged with the index offences and released on bail. You then fled to Belgium to avoid prosecution. Despite an international warrant for your arrest, you remained unlawfully at large in Belgium until authorities there arrested and deported you to Canada in January 2011 for an immigration violation. You remained in pre-trial custody from 2011 until 2015 when you were convicted and sentenced for the index offences.

In regards to your social history, you were born in Belgium and were raised in an intact family. You have four siblings. You described your parents as emotionally distant with limited communication in the family, but you described this as the norm in your culture. You completed school, but were not a good student. You pursued a career as an electrician before attending vocational school to become a priest. You moved to Canada when you were 26 years old. You report no issues with substance misuse or abuse.

Regarding your community supervision history, during your first federal sentence, the Board granted you day parole and you progressed to full parole and mandatory supervision. Your behaviour in the community was described as positive and there were no concerns while you were under supervision. Following completion of your first federal sentence, however, as outlined above, you violated bail conditions after being charged for the index offences and spent over 15 years in Belgium as a fugitive from justice before being deported back to Canada.

Regarding your institutional conduct, you spent four years in pre-trial provincial custody and did not receive any misconducts. You transferred to federal custody in November 2015. There were



no noted issues at the federal assessment unit. You were penitentiary placed to a medium-security facility. Your institutional conduct has been described as positive.

In November 2016, you completed the Integrated Correctional Program Model (ICPM) Sex Offender Primer Program. You attended all 10 program sessions. Your participation was described as excellent, but your motivation level was described as somewhat low. This was attributed to your stance that you had already made the necessary adjustments to prevent further offending after your first sentence, during which you completed sex offender programming in 1993.

In March 2018, you completed the ICPM Sex Offender High Intensity Program. You completed all 108 sessions. Your written work was completed with thought and reasonable effort. You appeared motivated to complete the program and expressed an interest to try to get what you could from the program so you could improve as a person. However, you continued to struggle with motivation to engage. Regarding change, you presented as being content with yourself. Your self-management plans needed some improvement. You were recommended to participate in maintenance programming.

You successfully completed the ICPM Institutional Sex Offender Maintenance Program in September 2021. Based on an analysis of each of your personal targets, it was determined that your current overall ability and commitment to use the skills required to manage your various risk factors improved from “needs some improvement” to “moderate.”

Along with participating in correctional programs, you have held institutional employment as a cleaner. You indicated an interest in continuing your education and volunteering for the Oblates.

At intake, you were assessed as requiring a high level of intervention based on static factors and a medium level of intervention based on dynamic factors. The areas of personal/emotional orientation and attitude were identified as contributing factors to your offence cycle and were assessed as requiring a moderate need for improvement. Your accountability, motivation level and reintegration potential were medium.

According to the most recent Correctional Plan Update (CPU), there have been no significant changes in your case to warrant a reassessment of your static or dynamic risk factors and there have been no changes to your accountability, motivation level and reintegration potential.

Your Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR) score of +11 suggests that four out of five like offenders will not commit an indictable offence within three years of release.

A specialized sex offender assessment was completed in February 2016. No conclusions were drawn from phallometric testing because the results were considered too low for valid clinical interpretations. You scored as a moderate-low risk on the Static-99 assessment tool and as having a moderate need for intervention on the Stable-2007. Areas identified for intervention targets included: significant social influences, capacity for relationship stability, lack of concern for others, poor problem solving, deviant sexual preference/interests, and cooperation with supervision.

A psychological risk assessment (PRA) was also completed for your case in August 2018. The assessment noted that you did not meet the threshold for a diagnosis of psychopath, but that your score was indicative of highly problematic interpersonal and affective features of psychopathy. According to both clinical and actuarial data, your risk of general reoffending fell in the low/moderate range while your risk to reoffend sexually fell in the moderate range.

Your release plan for your statutory release is to reside with the Oblates [REDACTED]



██████████ You have identified your sister who resides in Belgium, as well as friends and members of the Oblates in Canada and Belgium as individuals in the community who are willing to assist you on release.

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has recommended that the Board impose the following special conditions on your statutory release: follow a treatment plan in the area of sexual deviancy, no contact with victims, report relationships (x2), no contact with children, not to be near children areas, not to seek/obtain employment or volunteer in a position of trust or authority over a person under the age of 18, and reside at a specific place.

In recommending the condition that you reside at a specific place, CSC noted, amongst other things, that you committed sexual offences against over 35 victims between 1974 and 1989. You abused your position of trust and authority and groomed young victims. You also committed sexual acts on a pet. The criteria for serious harm was met. CSC determined that alternatives to residency, including increased frequency of contact, increased police reporting, intensive management, additional special conditions, curfews, collateral contacts and special written instructions, would not provide enough supervision to manage your risk. CSC believes that a residency condition is reasonable and necessary in your case and that you would benefit from structured and gradual release to the community. CSC requested community assessments and CRFs in the ██████████ have offered to accommodate you on your release.

The Board is imposing a residency condition on your statutory release having considered several key aspects of your case.

Your offence history is very serious and demonstrates your potential for violent behaviour as it involves numerous sexual assaults that you committed over the course of approximately 15 years. Your sexual offending was varied in that the victims were mostly children, but you also victimized adults and engaged in bestiality. As a spiritual authority figure, you were in a position of great trust in relation to the victims, which you used to groom and silence them. You also used physical violence and caused serious physical injuries to some of the victims. The victims suffered devastating and ongoing emotional and psychological harm that also impacted those around them. The sentencing judge noted that the trauma of sexual abuse can have an intergenerational effect.

You were diagnosed with pedophilia in 1989 when you underwent a pre-sentence psychological assessment. The psychologist in your 2018 PRA also found that you met the criteria for a diagnosis of pedophilia. There is a 1990 psychiatric assessment that your defence counsel obtained that did not diagnose you with pedophilia, but the Board does not give this significant weight. The psychiatrist was of the view that you did not meet the third criterion in the then-DSM-III, which required that, "It must be clear that any sexual acts engaged in with children are not due to mental disorders such as schizophrenia, dementia, drug intoxication or due to lack of a suitable age-appropriate partner." The psychiatrist noted that you lived in a remote community and that your "sexual appetite was so intense during this period that he was not able to control it and succumb [sic] to the most convenient partner which in these cases were children." The psychiatrist analogized this with an uncited anecdote where certain patients were told that if they consumed water while experiencing excessive thirst during their renal dialysis, they would die. An unspecified number of them nonetheless drank water, which he argued demonstrates how far people will go to diminish their discomfort. This analogy is flawed however, since the patients had a non-deviant craving that they satisfied with water, a healthy liquid, but the psychiatrist suggests that you satisfied non-deviant sexual cravings by sexually assaulting children. The psychiatrist makes no mention of any deviant sexual interest on your part. The Board therefore gives greater weight to the two opinions that diagnosed you with pedophilia. Even if the Board is mistaken in its analysis, the psychiatrist nonetheless found that you were unable to control your sexual appetite to the



point that you were willing to victimize children.

Your 2018 PRA found that, according to actuarial measures, your risk of sexual reoffending falls within the moderate range. Though the PRA indicates that you did not meet the threshold for a diagnosis of psychopath, your score was indicative of highly problematic interpersonal and affective features of psychopathy, which raises concerns about your risk of violent reoffending and compliance with release conditions. Regarding the latter, the Board notes that you demonstrated a disregard for release conditions when you fled the country after being released on bail and were a fugitive from justice for 15 years. You were deported back to Canada and therefore only returned involuntarily.

You have made limited measurable and observable gains in addressing your risk. You pointed out in your letter to the Board that you did all your required programs and more. You wrote that the programs helped you recognize the damage you have done, for which you are very sorry. You wrote that you learned to examine your thinking, behaviour, and problem solving so that you will not reoffend, and that you had learned your lesson. You have made some gains, which is reflected in your improved rating in your overall ability and commitment to use the skills required to manage your various risk factors after the completion of your Maintenance program. You report not experiencing any problematic sexual thoughts, fantasies, or arousal, but the Board notes that you have been in a controlled environment absent of children for many years. Your gains have not been sufficient to alter your ratings in the risk/need areas identified as contributing to your offending. You continue to deny culpability for many of your convictions and you minimize the severity of the offences for which you do accept responsibility. This is an obstacle to your rehabilitation.

As you pointed out in your letter, your institutional behaviour has been positive as you have not been involved in any incidents and have maintained employment in a position of trust as a cleaner, but this does not carry significant predictive weight as it pertains to future sexual reoffending.

In the absence of a residency condition, you plan to live with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in [REDACTED] at their residence. Your contact at the Oblates advised CSC that the residence occasionally accommodates guests who bring their children and stay overnight and your contact is not prepared to stop allowing children to stay there if you lived there. There is also a large park across the street from the residence, but your section 161 order prohibits you from attending parks. You do not have any other supports in [REDACTED] other than the Oblates. You pointed out in your letter that living at a CRF would increase your risk of COVID infection, but the Oblates residence is also a communal living arrangement. There is no information before the Board that supports the conclusion that your risk of COVID infection would be higher living at a CRF. You also asserted that you would be unsafe at a CRF because people could search on the internet and find out that you are a member of the Oblates who were previously involved in residential schools. Such a conclusion is highly speculative and does not explain how living with the Oblates would reduce your public identification with them. Your release plan absent a residency condition is not viable and does not mitigate your undue risk.

The Board also notes that you have not spent any time in the community since your incarceration began in 2011 whether on any kind of temporary absence or day parole. The psychologist in the 2018 PRA recommended your slow and gradual release into the community as one aspect of managing your risk. Reintegrating into the community after a long period of incarceration comes with many challenges and stressors. Living at a CRF will provide you with structure and support. A residency condition will therefore both mitigate your undue risk and facilitate your successful reintegration into society.



The Board imposes a residency condition because it is satisfied that, in the absence of a condition requiring you to reside in a community-based residential facility or a psychiatric facility, you will present an undue risk to society by committing, before the expiration of your sentence, an offence set out in Schedule I or an offence under section 467.11, 467.12, or 467.13 of the Criminal Code.

The residency condition is in effect until your sentence expiration. Prior to the expiry of your sentence the Board may, upon receipt of your application for relief from the condition and/or a recommendation from your Parole Officer, remove the residency condition if the Board determines that you no longer present an undue risk to society by committing an offence listed in Schedule I before the expiration of your sentence.

As recommended by CSC, the Board is not authorizing leave privileges given your objection to a residency condition coupled with your history of flight while on bail, your need for a high level of supervision, and your lack of supports in the area where you could take leave passes.

REASONS FOR SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The Board imposes the following special conditions on your statutory release, as they are reasonable and necessary in order to protect society and to facilitate your successful reintegration into society. They will remain in effect until the end of your sentence, unless modified or removed by the Board.

You shall have no direct or indirect contact with the victims or the victims' family members. Your offending caused the victims devastating and ongoing emotional and psychological harm. This condition serves to protect them from further trauma.

The Board notes that you are subject to a section 161 order that remains in effect independent of any parole conditions. The Board may impose conditions that are more restrictive than those in your section 161 order, but not less. The section 161 order includes a condition prohibiting you from "attending a public park or public swimming area where persons under the age of 16 years are present or can reasonably be expected to be present, or a daycare centre, school ground, playground, or community centre." As such, the Board is not imposing the special condition recommended by CSC that would allow you to be near children's areas if accompanied by an adult approved by your parole supervisor.

You shall not be the presence of any children under the age of 18 unless you are accompanied by a responsible adult who knows your criminal history, and has been previously approved in writing by your parole supervisor. You shall not seek or obtain employment or volunteer in any capacity that involves being in a position of trust or authority over a person under the age of 18 years. Your section 161 order applies to only children under the age of 16 years, however, the Board is imposing a more restrictive age limit of 18 years as you offended against both adults and children, demonstrating diversity in the age of potential victims. You committed your offences while unsupervised. The majority of the victims were children with whom you were in a position of trust. You groomed the victims and used your position of trust to overpower and silence them.

You shall follow any treatment plan/program to be arranged by your parole supervisor in the area of sexual deviancy. You have been diagnosed with pedophilia and you have admitted to having a sexual attraction to children. You continue to be rated as having a moderate need for improvement in the area of personal/emotional orientation.

You shall immediately report all sexual and non-sexual relationships and friendships with females and any changes to the status of the relationships/friendships to your parole supervisor. The



victims included adult women. This condition serves to allow your parole officer to monitor your relationships with women to ensure their protection.

You shall report to your parole supervisor all intimate sexual and non-sexual relationships with anyone who has parental responsibilities for children under the age of 18 years. You gained access to some of the victims through relationships with their parents who entrusted their children to you.

DECISION(S) AND VOTES :

STATUTORY RELEASE - PRE REL.	CHANGE CONDITION	2022-05-19
Board Member	Vote	Vote Date
KIM, S. .	CHANGE CONDITION	2022-05-19

SIGNATURES :

KIM, S. .

Board Member Signature Date