

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal From The Administrative Law Court  
Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III, Administrative Law Judge

Appellate Case No. 2022-000965

JOSEPH KELSEY, # 217218.....APPELLANT,

V.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES.....RESPONDENT.

**MOTION TO SUPPLEMENT THE RECORD**

Pursuant to SCACR 212(b), Appellant moves to supplement the Record on Appeal with the following:

- (1) A copy of Mr. Kelsey’s parole file compiled by Respondent S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (“PPP”), which PPP provided to Parole Board members two weeks before Mr. Kelsey’s April 24, 2024 parole hearing but to counsel two days before the hearing (Exhibit 1);
- (2) A copy of the Parole File Acknowledgement Form that Mr. Kelsey and undersigned counsel were required to sign prior to Mr. Kelsey’s April 24, 2024 parole hearing (Exhibit 2);
- (3) A copy of Mr. Kelsey’s parole memorandum and supporting documents submitted to PPP on April 3, 2024 (Exhibit 3); and
- (4) A copy of Mr. Kelsey’s November 29, 2023 and April 24, 2024 Notices of Parole Denial (Exhibit 4).

The factual inaccuracies in Mr. Kelsey’s file, and his subsequent parole denial on the basis of those inaccuracies, are directly relevant to this Court’s consideration of whether PPP and the

Board acted arbitrarily and capriciously, whether the Board has denied Mr. Kelsey parole in retaliation for his successful appeals, and whether PPP has given potential parolees meaningful access to their parole files. *See* Br. App. at 15–18, 18–22, 22–23. This Court should allow Appellant to supplement the record because the proposed material makes four things clear: (1) Mr. Kelsey’s concerns about inaccurate information being provided to the Board at his prior hearings were well-founded; (2) PPP and the Board have unconstitutionally engaged in arbitrary and capricious decision-making by willfully providing demonstrably false facts to the Board and denying parole based on those false facts, respectively; (3) the Board’s fluctuating vote counts in subsequent hearings further support Appellant’s claim that the Board’s decisions can only be based on something other than Mr. Kelsey’s impeccable record during his incarceration; and (4) the parole file access issue is not moot despite the Court’s order in *Kelsey v. S.C. Dep’t of Prob., Parole & Pardon. Servs.*, 441 S.C. 373, 893 S.E.2d 588 (Ct. App. 2023) (*Kelsey I*).

## **ARGUMENT**

Since this litigation commenced, Mr. Kelsey has appeared before the Parole Board twice more, on November 29, 2023 and April 24, 2024. As at prior parole hearings, Mr. Kelsey was denied parole at both hearings by varying vote counts, and each proceeding has been tainted by the identical procedural defects identified in the instant appeal. The most salient of these defects, confirmed by the materials Appellant seeks to make part of the appellate record, are gross factual inaccuracies contained in his parole file that Mr. Kelsey was only permitted to review shortly before the April 24, 2024 parole hearing as mandated by this Court in *Kelsey I*. 441 S.C. at 379, 893 S.E.2d at 591–92 (reversing and remanding “for Kelsey to review his file, report any inaccuracies, and be given a new parole hearing”).

After *Kelsey I* was decided, in anticipation of Mr. Kelsey's new parole hearing, undersigned counsel sent an email to counsel for PPP on March 5, 2024, requesting Mr. Kelsey's parole file at least 30 days in advance of his hearing so that Mr. Kelsey could review and correct his file as ordered by this Court. On March 7, 2024, counsel sent a follow-up email clarifying their request for an immediate new parole hearing for Mr. Kelsey and again requesting that Mr. Kelsey's file be provided 30 days in advance. PPP did not respond to either correspondence.

On March 25, 2024, PPP notified counsel that Mr. Kelsey's new parole hearing had been set for April 24, 2024, but still did not provide Mr. Kelsey's file. Consequently, Mr. Kelsey submitted his own packet of information supporting parole on April 3, 2024—21 days before his hearing, as required by PPP—without an opportunity to review or correct the parole file. Although parole files are sent to the Parole Board two weeks in advance of parole hearings, counsel for Mr. Kelsey was not provided with a copy of Mr. Kelsey's parole file until April 22, 2024, when PPP emailed counsel a copy of the file over a secure link. Mr. Kelsey himself was not allowed to review his file until the morning of his April 24 hearing, when he was instructed to handwrite any necessary corrections on the file and address inaccuracies orally, off the cuff, to the Board in the middle of his hearing. Mr. Kelsey was then informed by a PPP employee that he would not be marked "present" for his parole hearing until he signed a form acknowledging that he had reviewed the file and that PPP "is not obligated to alter facts or details which are unsubstantiated by official records." *See* Exhibit 2 (a copy of the same form Mr. Kelsey was required to sign, as provided to undersigned counsel). He was required to return the file to PPP at the conclusion of the hearing.

Upon reviewing the file, Mr. Kelsey learned that PPP has been providing the Board members with two different versions of the facts of the offense. Exhibit 1 at 6–7. The first, and much more detailed, description of the facts of the underlying offense sets forth a version of the

crime that is conclusively refuted by a comprehensive SLED investigation report, sworn trial testimony, and detailed findings contained in two South Carolina Supreme Court opinions. *See Payne v. State*, 355 S.C. 642, 586 S.E.2d 857 (2003); *State v. Kelsey*, 331 S.C. 50, 59-60, 502 S.E.2d 63, 67 (1998). While the source of this flagrantly false version of the case is unknown (and unstated in the parole file), it portrays Mr. Kelsey as the primary perpetrator and aggressor the night of the offense. In fact, it completely flips the roles of Mr. Kelsey and his co-defendant Payne, rejecting the Supreme Court’s finding that “the testimony overwhelmingly proves that Payne murdered [the victim].” *Payne*, 355 S.C. at 646, 586 S.E.2d at 859. *See also Kelsey*, 331 S.C at 59–61, 502 S.E.2d at 67–68.

The fact that the findings of the Supreme Court, reflecting the actual facts of the crime as adduced at trial, were included as a second version of the facts did not cure the problems inherent in providing the false version for two reasons. First, the false version was included first and presented as PPP’s determination of the facts of the offense, and according to PPP, “the Board knows to look to the facts of the offense as prepared for the parole file and presented by the Department,” and to disregard any alternative statement of the facts. Resp’t Return to Motion for Rule to Show Cause, *Kelsey I*, at 10 (Mar. 29, 2024). Second, the false version of the facts was submitted to the Board before Mr. Kelsey had the opportunity to see and correct the inaccuracies and was the only version of the facts that the Board was allowed to see for at least two parole cycles.<sup>1</sup> Allowing demonstrably false material information to go to the Board before a parolee is able to see the file and correct inaccuracies does nothing to cure the problems identified by this

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<sup>1</sup> PPP reported that the Supreme Court’s recitation of the facts was not included until October 2019. Exhibit 1 at 7. If that is accurate, Mr. Kelsey’s 2015 and 2017 parole denials were based exclusively on PPP’s false facts.

Court in *Kelsey I*. The damaging information has already tainted the Board members' review of the file in a way that cannot be corrected at the parole hearing itself.

Moreover, the remaining proposed documents make it clear that PPP's current process for "adhering" to this Court's order in *Kelsey I* is insufficient to address the Court's concerns. Mr. Kelsey was not provided the file until after the incorrect information in it had been sent to the Parole Board. While he could not correct the inaccuracies before he submitted his memorandum in support of parole, Mr. Kelsey and undersigned counsel attempted to correct the inaccuracies by marking up the file before his recent hearing and through their statements to the Board during the April 24, 2024 hearing.<sup>2</sup> Nonetheless, Mr. Kelsey was again denied parole solely on the basis of his offense, as in each of his prior parole hearings. Exhibit 4. Further, PPP has expressly stated

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<sup>2</sup> The marked-up version of the file must be returned to PPP; the Board itself does not receive it. Further, because parole hearings are typically severely time-limited, undersigned counsel primarily discussed the incorrect information in the facts of the offense—the most important inaccuracies, given that Mr. Kelsey has never been denied parole for any reason other than the nature of his crime. However, Mr. Kelsey and counsel noted a variety of other inaccuracies in his file, including:

- (1) Offenses that had been committed after the instant offense were counted against Mr. Kelsey as a "prior criminal history." Mr. Kelsey has no criminal history prior to his murder conviction, the only conviction for which he is currently serving a sentence.
- (2) The statements of Solicitor Rick Hubbard incorrectly state that Mr. Kelsey admitted to killing the victim. Mr. Kelsey has consistently maintained that he believed the victim was dead after Payne strangled her, and the Supreme Court has agreed that regardless of how the victim died, Payne was the one who killed her.
- (3) The COMPAS assessment incorrectly states that Mr. Kelsey would be released to a "high-crime area." The release address that Mr. Kelsey provided the parole examiner, which was listed in his file, is his fiancée's single-family home in a middle-class, low-crime Georgia neighborhood.
- (4) The file incorrectly lists a parole supporter as Mr. Kelsey's daughter. He has no children.
- (5) The file omits several of Mr. Kelsey's academic credentials and program participation. His undergraduate (completed) and master's (in progress) degrees are not included as academic achievements, and the file omits participation in religious programming, including Kairos.

See Exhibit 1.

that it will not change any information in the file unless a change is supported by “official records.”<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 2. It is not possible for Mr. Kelsey or counsel to provide PPP with the necessary records when the file is turned over on such short notice, particularly given that the information has already been sent to the Board. It is clear that without further guidance from this Court, PPP will continue to fail to comply with this Court’s order in *Kelsey I* and continue to refuse to provide Mr. Kelsey and other inmates with a meaningful opportunity to review and correct their files pursuant to PPP’s own Form 1212 requirement and before false information in the file reaches the Board and taints its decision-making.

Finally, the proposed notices of parole denial (Exhibit 4) provide further evidence relevant to Appellant’s claim that Mr. Kelsey has been repeatedly been denied parole in retaliation for exercising his right to appeal the Board’s decisions, which is protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The Board’s vote counts at Mr. Kelsey’s parole hearings have fluctuated wildly, from one vote in 2021, to zero in 2023, to two in 2024, with no explanation for the changes and as Mr. Kelsey’s prison record has only improved (*see* Exhibit 3). Each time, the Board cites the nature of Mr. Kelsey’s offense as the reason for the denial—the only thing that will never change. These changing vote counts, and inconsistent votes by individual Board members, in the face of unchanging reasons for denial and Mr. Kelsey’s improved prison record indicate that something other than the record before them is driving the Board’s decisions. Such decision-making is arbitrary and capricious.

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<sup>3</sup> As evidenced by its refusal to remove the false information from Mr. Kelsey’s file even in light of sworn trial testimony and two Supreme Court opinions to the contrary, PPP clearly does not believe it has any obligation at all to correct files, even when corrections are in fact supported by official records.

## CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Appellant requests that this Court allow Appellant to supplement the record with his April 2024 parole file, the memorandum and supporting documents he submitted in support of parole for his April 24, 2024 hearing, the Parole File Acknowledgment Form from his April 24, 2024 hearing, and his November 29, 2023 and April 24, 2024 Notices of Parole Denial.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/Allison Franz

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May 2, 2024.

# Exhibit 1

Case # 19

**PAROLE CASE SUMMARY**

Date: 04/12/2024

Hearing: 4/24/2024 FULL BOARD

Case #

19

NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY SCDC: 00217218 Reviewed By: Fahman, Anna

Date of Birth: Jul 20, 1977 Age: 46 Max-Out Date: LIFE

Institution: BROAD RIVER Max-Out By Next Hearing: NO

Custody Status: LEVEL 2 Parole Max-Out Date: LIFE

Last Infraction: May 11, 2004 No. of Rejections/Waivers: 5

Initial Elig Date: Sep 22, 2015 PPP SID: 00975538

COMPAS General Recidivism Risk: Low

Chemical Dependency:

COMPAS Violent Recidivism Risk: Low

MHI: Requires Simple Majority (05/24/1977 through 05/02/1986): No

**COMPAS Identified Strengths:**

- Age 30 or Greater
- Full Time Employment/School Past 12 Months
- High School Graduate or GED
- Current Skill or Trade

**COMPAS Identified Criminogenic Needs:**

- Current Violence
- Reentry Social Environment

Total Sentence: 9999 Year(s) 0 Month(s) Offense Category: VIOLENT

Suspended To: 9999 Year(s) 0 Month(s) Risk Level: None

Time Served: (0)% 29 Year(s) 5 Month(s) DNA Required: No

**Academic Enrollment**

<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Term Description</u>
H.S. ACADEMIC	Jan 10, 1995	Mar 01, 1995	Classroom
NIGHT SCH - P.T.	Mar 03, 1998	Apr 24, 1998	Classroom
NIGHT SCH - P.T.	Nov 04, 1998	Jan 21, 1999	Classroom
TECH. MATH, POST SECONDA	Aug 01, 2000	Dec 05, 2000	Classroom
TECH. ENGLISH, POST SECON	Jan 04, 2001	Apr 25, 2001	Classroom
WORKKEYS	Sep 07, 2012	Nov 09, 2012	Classroom

During the interview, the subject reported working on his Master's Degree in Business Administration through mail correspondence with Adams State University (Colorado).

Case # 19  
Hearing: 4/24/2024 FULL BOARD  
NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY

**PAROLE CASE SUMMARY**  
SCDC: 00217218 Reviewed By: Fathman, Anna

Date: 04/12/2024  
Case #

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**Program Involvement**

<u>Program Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Term Description</u>
CHRONIC DISEASE EDUCATION	Feb 13, 1995	Feb 13, 1995	Complete, Exec Participation
DRUG EDUCATION PROG-PH1	May 02, 1995	May 12, 1995	Complete, Exec Participation
COGNITIVE THERAPY	Mar 14, 1996	Apr 25, 1996	Complete, Exec Participation
TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE	Aug 21, 2000	Dec 11, 2000	Complete, Good Participation
VOCATIONAL TRAINING	Mar 01, 2004	Mar 03, 2005	Complete, Good Participation
FORKLIFT TRAINING	Mar 30, 2010	Apr 05, 2010	Complete, Good Participation
ANGER MANAGEMENT	Jan 09, 2013	Feb 08, 2013	Complete, Good Participation
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	Feb 09, 2013	Mar 08, 2013	Complete, Good Participation
BASIC HOSPICE VOLUNTEER T	Jul 19, 2013	Aug 02, 2013	Complete, Exec Participation
CONFLICT RESOLUTION	Oct 20, 2013	Nov 19, 2013	Complete, Good Participation
PARENTING SKILLS	Nov 20, 2013	Dec 19, 2013	Complete, Good Participation
CIJ	Jan 10, 2014	Dec 14, 2015	Service Rendered & Completed
ANNUAL HOSPICE VOLUNTEER	Dec 10, 2014	Dec 10, 2015	Complete, Good Participation
MENS ISSUES GROUP	Aug 20, 2015	Nov 20, 2015	Complete, Good Participation
30 DAY PRE-RELEASE	Sep 01, 2015	Sep 30, 2015	Complete, Exec Participation
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Nov 06, 2015	Nov 16, 2015	Complete, Exec Participation
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION	Dec 08, 2015	May 17, 2017	Complete, Exec Participation
JUMP START	Jul 12, 2016	Jun 12, 2017	Complete, Exec Participation
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION	Apr 01, 2017	Sep 30, 2019	Complete, Exec Participation
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	May 08, 2018	Aug 08, 2018	Complete, Exec Participation
MENS ISSUES GROUP	Aug 29, 2018	Nov 29, 2018	Complete, Exec Participation
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Mar 04, 2019	Jun 04, 2019	Complete, Exec Participation
JUMP START	Mar 20, 2019	Mar 04, 2020	Complete, Exec Participation
CIJ	Dec 01, 2019	Dec 01, 2019	Complete, Exec Participation
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION	Jul 01, 2020	Sep 30, 2020	Complete, Good Participation
PEER SUPPORT	Sep 13, 2021	Sep 20, 2021	Service Rendered & Completed
CERTIFIED PEER SUPPORT IN	Sep 21, 2021		
FAMILY INTERVENTION PROJ	Jun 18, 2022	Jun 20, 2022	Complete, Good Participation
THINKING FOR CHANGE	Jun 18, 2022	Jun 20, 2022	Complete, Good Participation
JUMP START	Aug 02, 2022	Jul 25, 2023	Complete, Exec Participation

During the interview, the subject reported being in the JumpStart program, Kairo, and is a Certified Peer Support Specialist working with YOA offenders and crisis inmates.

Case #: 19

**PAROLE CASE SUMMARY**

Date: 04/12/2024

19

Hearing: 4/24/2024 FULL BOARD

Case #

NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY

SCDC: 00217218

Reviewed By: Fathman, Anna

**PAROLE EXAMINER**

Brandy L. James

**Board Requested Information**

The inmate is serving a life sentence for Murder, Manufacturing or Possessing Firebombs, and Criminal Conspiracy. He has satisfied 29 year(s) and 5 month(s) of the current sentence. The subject and two co-defendants spent a night partying with the victim before they placed a pipe bomb in her mouth and ignited it, causing her death. The inmate has satisfied the following conviction(s): Possession of Stolen Vehicle, Attempted Burglary, and Failure to Stop for Officers. This is the subject's 6th opportunity for parole. The inmate does have a prior criminal history. There is a history of community-based supervision. Available records reveal some participation in academics and behavioral programs. During the interview, the subject reported working on his master's degree in business administration through mail correspondence with Adams State University (Colorado). During the interview, the subject reported being in the JumpStart program, Kairos, and is a Certified Peer Support Specialist working with YOA offenders and crisis inmates. The inmate has been convicted or punished for a total of six (6) disciplinary infractions. One (1) of these was major. The most recent infraction was committed 05/11/2004. SCDC records do not identify holds or detainers for this inmate. There is victim opposition.

**Criminogenic Needs and Risks Information**

The COMPAS assessment identifies the subject's general recidivism risk as Low. The violent recidivism risk is Low.

The COMPAS results reveal the inmate is currently serving for an assaultive offense.

The COMPAS scores suggest the inmate will be returning to an area of high crime and/or victimization. Considering the risk level, a moderately-structured supervision plan could suffice to deter criminal involvement and lessen the likelihood of future victimization.

If paroled, the following conditions are reasonable, given the current offense and the criminogenic risk/needs factors:

- 04 Must have no contact with the Victim and/or Victim's family for duration of supervision.
- 11 Employment/Residence.
- 13 Favorable psychological evaluation.
- 17 Must Reimburse SCOPPS \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Cost of the Psychological.
- 37 A moderately structured supervision plan, as determined by the Agent.

**Support Statements**

Received email of support on 4/01/2024 from Frances Jagoditsch and Jennifer Montgomery, Family Friends. Letters were uploaded to PIC. See forms.

Received email of support on 4/02/2024 from Thomas Speigel, Physical Education teacher at Naples Church. Letter uploaded to PIC and sent to records to be placed in inmates file.

Received email of support on 4/04/2024 from Charles Kelsey IV, Brother. Letter uploaded to PIC. See forms.

Received email of support on 4/05/2024 from Jarina Keane, Sister ; Amanda Chaney, Cousin, Benjamin Kelsey Brother; Ashlee Kelsey, Niece. Letters were uploaded to PIC. See forms.

Received emails of support on 4/09/2024 from Amanda Kelsey, daughter; Tonya Kelsey, Sister; Bethany Wilks, Friend; Nate Wilks, Friend; Walter Westberg, Brother ; Grace Caraway, Friend. Letters uploaded to PIC; See forms.

Case # 19

**PAROLE CASE SUMMARY**

Date: 04/12/2024

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Case #

19

NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY SDC: 00217218 Reviewed By: Fathman, Anna

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**Intended Residence**

Name: Jennifer Montgomery

Relation: Fiance'

Address1: 3962 Carson Cultrif

PH#: (706) 799-8022

Address2:

City: MARTINEZ

State: GA

Zip: 30907

County: Central Office

Comments:

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**Intended Employment**

Company: Lambert Logistics, Inc.

PH#: (706) 496-5432

Job Title:

Supervisor:

Address1: Will notify

Address2:

City:

State:

Zip:

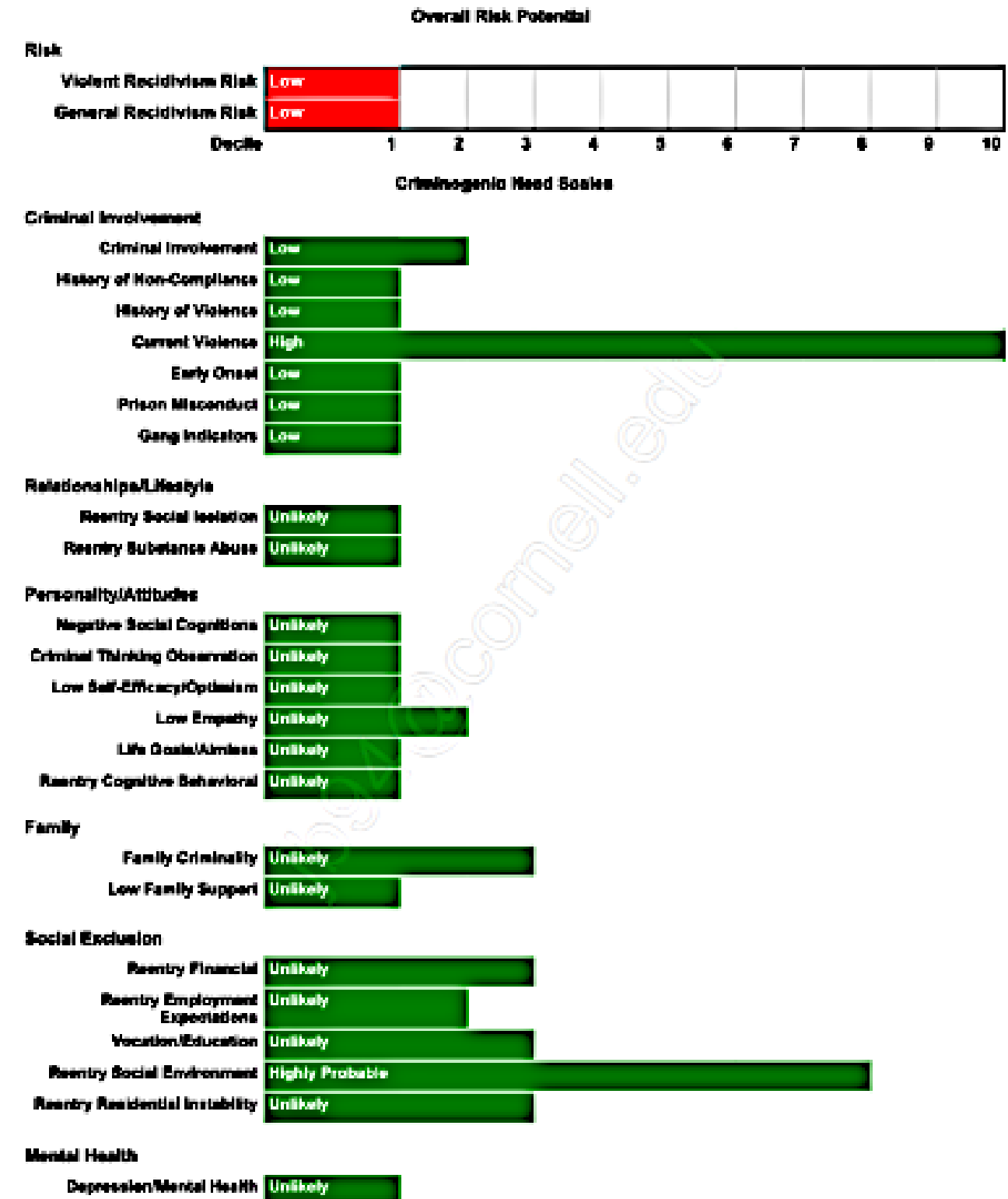
County:

Comments:

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jib94@cornell.edu

**COMPAS Assessment Bar Chart:**



Case # 19

PAROLE CASE SUMMARY

Date: 04/12/2024

Hearing: 4/24/2024 FULL BOARD

Case #

19

NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY

SCDC: 00217218

Reviewed By: Fathman, Anna

DETAINERS/NOTICES: Not Available

FACTS OF THE OFFENSE

	Offense Date	County	Sentence	Maxout Date
Sep 22, 1995	Jul 12, 1994	McCORMICK	999 Yrs 99 Mos 999 Dys	Jan 01, 9999

Offense: 95-GS-35-00099 Murder

By: Darrell L. Loudon

NOTES: Not Available

FACTS: On or about July 12, 1994 in McCormick County, Geoffrey Ryan Payne did assist and participate with Joseph Glenn Kelsey and killed Melanie Kaye Richey (15 years old) by means of blunt head trauma from a bomb, strangulation, or some other unlawful criminal means, where the victim died as a result.

On the night of July 11, 1994, the resident of 4031 Oregon Trail Road, Martinez, Georgia was having a party beginning in the evening hours. Until midnight, everyone was just drinking beer, talking and listening to music. Around midnight, Geoffrey Payne and Jammie Lee left the residence to go to a local convenience store, where they saw the victim at a phone booth. Geoffrey Payne knew of her but Jammie Lee had never met her. They noticed she had a hurt foot and offered assistance. The victim stated to Geoffrey Payne that she would go with him to the residence where the party was being held for medical treatment and to party. After arriving at the residence, the victim and Geoffrey Payne went upstairs where he rendered medical treatment to her foot. Shortly after, both Melanie and Payne came downstairs and started drinking beer with others. At some point in the early morning hours, Melanie was given some iced tea that was laced with a drug called Ecstasy. Payne instructed Lee to get the drug from his vehicle so that they could give it to Melanie. Melanie drank the tea along with Payne and Lee. At some point around 4 a.m., Melanie stated to Payne and Lee that she needed to be back at her residence between 6:00-6:30 a.m. so her parents would not miss her. At this time, Melanie, Geoffrey Payne, Jamie Lee, and Joe Kelsey got into Lee's vehicle. Jamie Lee was driving, Geoffrey Payne was in the front passenger's side and Joe Kelsey and Melanie were in the back seat. They headed down the road into South Carolina from Georgia. Payne stated that about three to four miles into South Carolina, he looked into the back seat and saw Kelsey on top of Melanie as if they were having sex. Melanie's foot hit the console, knocking the gearshift into neutral. Payne then asked Kelsey what was going on and Kelsey replied, "she's not breathing, I killed her." They then turned onto a road crossed over the county line and pulled to the left shoulder of the road. Payne then stated the three of them thought she was dead because her color was blue and she appeared not to be breathing. The three then drug her body into the woods where Joe Kelsey inserted a pipe bomb into Melanie's mouth and ignited it. Lee had already gone back to the vehicle at that point. Kelsey then stated to Payne, the pipe bomb was so no one could identify her.

STATE v. KELSEY

FACTUAL/PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND (SC Supreme Court)

In early July 1994, sixteen-year-old Kelsey was staying with his friend, seventeen-year-old Mike Kirchner in Martinez, Georgia. At the time, Kirchner's father was away from home on business. On Monday, July 11, 1994, Kirchner left to go to work, leaving Kelsey, seventeen-year-old Geoffrey Payne, and seventeen-year-old Jamie Lynn Lee ("Defendants") alone in the house. Defendants decided to manufacture homemade pipe bombs. They initially constructed a bomb using copper tubing and gun powder extracted from firecrackers. They detonated the bomb near a tree in Kirchner's backyard.

Defendants then decided to construct more sophisticated pipe bombs. To accomplish this, they shoplifted pipe material and shotgun shells from a nearby hardware store and Wal-Mart. Under the direction of Kelsey, they built three galvanized steel pipe bombs, one of which they detonated in Kirchner's backyard. The explosion produced a crater approximately four inches deep and one foot wide. It left bomb fragments in the side of Kirchner's house and in a nearby privacy fence. Kelsey placed the other two unexploded bombs in his travel bag inside Kirchner's house. Later that evening, Defendants gathered at Kirchner's house for a party. In addition to Defendants, the following individuals showed up for the party: Tom Wurtzinger, Aarl Reese, Tommy Sprigel, and Joey Ingram. Everyone was drinking beer. At around midnight, Lee and Payne left the party to go to a nearby Texaco station, a popular "hang-out" area among local teens. When Lee and Payne arrived at the station, they spotted Melanie Richey standing near a telephone booth. They noticed something was wrong with her foot. In the process of sneaking out of her house to meet with a friend, Richey had severely cut her foot. Lee and Payne offered to take Richey to Kirchner's house in order to clean and bandage her injuries. Richey accepted.

jb94@cc

Lee, Payne, and Richey returned to Kirchner's house at around 1:30 a.m. Lee and Payne helped Richey bandage her foot and then all three rejoined the party. Soon thereafter, Payne and Richey went outside on Kirchner's back porch where Payne repeatedly tried to coax Richey into having sexual intercourse with him. Richey refused Payne's advances. At several points during the night, Payne expressed to Lee his frustration over Richey's intransigence. Kelsey testified that at one point he overheard Payne tell Lee that he was so mad he could kill Richey.

Payne instructed Lee to crush up a tablet of "Ecstasy," a mild hallucinogen. Payne poured the powder into a mixture of tea and water in order to hide the taste of the drug. Payne gave the drink to Richey and told her it would help calm a stomach-ache she had been complaining about earlier in the evening. Payne did not tell her that the drink was laced with Ecstasy. Kelsey testified that while this was going on, he was resting on the floor by the stereo and occasionally changing the music selection. At around 3:30 a.m., Defendants decided to take Richey home. While Richey was waiting for Defendants outside of Kirchner's house, Payne asked Lee to get something to knock Richey out with. Lee retrieved a wrench from Kirchner's garage. Payne then suggested that Kelsey bring the unexploded pipe bombs. Kelsey complied by retrieving the bombs from his travel bag. Kelsey testified that he was unaware, at the time, of what Payne actually intended to do with the wrench and bombs.

Defendants and Richey then got into Lee's car, ostensibly to take Richey home. Lee was driving, Kelsey was in the passenger seat, and Payne and Richey were in the backseat. Although Richey had given them directions to her house, Lee detoured in the opposite direction. Richey asked where they were going; Payne replied that they were going to drive around for a while. Lee eventually drove across the Georgia border and into South Carolina. Lee testified that the music was "obscenely" loud in the car, and he was going about 90 m.p.h. Soon after entering South Carolina, Lee noticed his tachometer go from 4200 to 6000 r.p.m. Lee looked down at the gear shift and discovered Richey's foot had knocked the gear into neutral. Lee turned around and saw that Payne had Richey in a "strangle hold type position." Lee continued to drive. A few minutes later, Lee "heard two quick, empty thud type sounds." He again turned around and saw that Payne still had Richey in a strangle hold. Lee further testified that Payne had the wrench in his hand. Kelsey testified that he had also turned around and saw that Richey's body was limp, her face was pale, and her lips were blue. A few moments later, Payne leaned forward to tell Lee to turn the music down. According to Lee's testimony, Payne stated, "I'm pretty sure she's knocked out, guys." Payne then instructed Lee to go to "Scary Bridge" which crossed over Stevens Creek, the boundary line between Edgefield and McCormick counties. Lee drove to the bridge where he parked the car. Defendants got out of the car, leaving Richey in the backseat. Payne informed Lee and Kelsey that he was going to have sex with Richey. Payne took off his clothes and Richey's shorts. A few moments later, Lee warned Payne that a car was coming. Defendants quickly got back into Lee's car and began driving. After the approaching vehicle passed, Lee turned the car around and went back to the bridge. Lee testified that Richey was unconscious the entire time, and "she was definitely alive." Kelsey, on the other hand, testified that he had checked Richey's pulse, and he believed she was dead.

Lee once again drove away from the bridge. He got approximately 100 feet down the road when Payne told him to stop the car. Defendants pulled Richey out of the car and carried her into the woods and up an embankment where they placed her on the ground. Lee returned to the car. Payne and Kelsey remained by Richey's body. Kelsey testified that while he was standing over Richey's body, Payne instructed him to place a pipe bomb into Richey's mouth. Kelsey complied. Payne then lit the fuse, and the two ran. A few seconds later, the bomb exploded. Defendants returned to Kirchner's house where they fell asleep.

Defendants were eventually arrested and charged with Richey's murder. Kelsey was arrested in Maryland and brought back to South Carolina to stand trial. Kelsey's case was transferred from family court to the Court of General Sessions where Kelsey and Payne were tried together as adults. Payne was found guilty of murder and criminal conspiracy. Kelsey was found guilty of murder, possession of a pipe bomb, and criminal conspiracy. Kelsey was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and consecutive sentences of five years for possession of a pipe bomb and criminal conspiracy.

Facts updated to reflect official facts from SC Supreme Court 10/01/2018. vs

	<u>Offense Date</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Maxout Date</u>
Sep 22, 1995	Jul 12, 1994	McCORMICK	5 Yrs	Jan 01, 9999
<b>Offense:</b>	95-GS-35-00089   Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined			
<b>By:</b>	Darnell L. Loudon			
<b>NOTE:</b>	Not Available			
<b>FACTS:</b>	Same as 95GS3500089  Murder.			

	<b>Offense Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>MaxOut Date</b>
Sep 22, 1995	Jul 12, 1994	McCORMICK	5 Yrs	Jan 01, 2000
<b>Offense:</b>	95-08-35-00093	Manufacture or poss. of article designed to cause damage by fire (Firebombs)		
<b>By:</b>	Darnell L. Loudon			
<b>NOTES:</b>	Not Available			
<b>FACTS:</b>	Same as 95GS3500089 Murder			

**COMPLETED/SUSPENDED/YOAI/OTHER OFFENSE**

<b>Indictment</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>MaxOut</b>
94GS402231	11/9/1994	RICHLAND	2 Yrs. 2 Yrs PROB	12/9/1995
<b>Offense:</b>	POSSESS STOLEN VEHICLE			
94GS402232	11/9/1994	RICHLAND	1 Yr. 2 Yrs PROB	6/9/1995
<b>Offense:</b>	FAIL TO STOP FOR OFFICER			
94GS402233	11/9/1994	RICHLAND	1 Yr. 2 Yrs PROB	6/9/1995
<b>Offense:</b>	ATTEMPTED BURGLARY			

**Disciplinary: (Past 3 Years) Not Available**

The inmate has been convicted or punished for a total of six (6) disciplinary infractions. One (1) of these was major. The most recent infraction was committed 05/11/2004.

**PRIOR SUPERVISION HISTORY: Disclaimer - PPP Records do not reflect CSP Revocations**

<b>Order Case</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Status</b>
1-1	RICHLAND	Prob	6/9/1995	6/8/1997	Closed Expired

Case # 19

**PAROLE CASE SUMMARY**

Date: 04/12/2024

Hearing: 4/24/2024 FULL BOARD

Case #

19

NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY

SCDC: 00217218

Reviewed By: Fahman, Anna

**OFFICIAL STATEMENTS**

The Department has made every reasonable effort to ensure the official statements included below have in fact been provided by the officials or offices identified; however, these statements were provided by independent third-party officials, not by officials, employees, or agents of the Department. These independent, third-party statements are neither endorsed nor adopted by the Department, and the Department makes no guarantee or representation as to the accuracy, content, completeness, reliability, or timeliness of any information or assertion made therein. The statements have not been fact-checked or verified by the Department and the Department is not responsible for any errors or omissions provided. The same is true for any oral statements made by these independent, third-party officials during the parole consideration hearing.

Judge 7/17/2015 95-GS-35-00089

The Honorable Judge Marc Westbrook—Deceased.

Sheriff 7/17/2015 95-GS-35-00089

C.E. Gable, McCormick County Sheriff's Office opposes any early release.

Solicitor 11/12/2018 95-GS-35-00089

Erin Mays, Assistant Solicitor of the 11th Judicial Circuit opposes any early release.

11/12/18- S.R. Hubbard, III, Solicitor of the 11th Judicial Circuit, wrote "I have received notice that Joseph Kelsey is seeking parole for the offenses of murder, possession of a pipe bomb and criminal conspiracy. Please be advised that this office opposes the granting of parole for this individual. This one of the most heinous and senseless murders that has occurred in McCormick County, South Carolina. The three defendants took the victim, 15 year old Melanie Richey to a party in Martinez, Georgia. She was drugged and then driven to a remote area in McCormick County. At least one of the defendants attempted to have sex with her, after she had been rendered unconscious. The defendant and a at least one co-defendant carried Ms. Richey into a wooded area, where Mr. Kelsey admitted to placing a pipe bomb he had made and killing the victim. Ms. Richey's body was discovered 48 days later. Mr. Kelsey was arrested in Maryland, returned to South Carolina, convicted by a jury and given a life sentence by the presiding judge. This defendant showed no mercy regarding Melanie Richey's life. After she was killed, he along with his co-defendant, left her remains in the woods to be consumed by animal and time. The violent use of a pipe bomb the defendant made, and placed in her mouth by him, reveals the callous, heartless, and dangerous nature of Mr. Kelsey. This office is adamantly opposed to parole for Joseph Kelsey. I consider him a continued threat to society, and respectfully request that you deny his request." ywc

11/12/2023 -S.R. Hubbard, III, Solicitor of the 11th Judicial Circuit, wrote "I have received notice that Joseph Kelsey is seeking parole for the offenses of murder, possession of a pipe bomb and criminal conspiracy. Please be advised that this office opposes the granting of parole for this individual. This one of the most heinous and senseless murders that has occurred in McCormick County, South Carolina. The three defendants took the victim, 15-year-old Melanie Richey to a party in Martinez, Georgia. She was drugged and then driven to a remote area in McCormick County. At least one of the defendants attempted to have sex with her, after she had been rendered unconscious. The defendant and a at least one co-defendant carried Ms. Richey into a wooded area, where Mr. Kelsey admitted to placing a pipe bomb, he had made and killing the victim. Ms. Richey's body was discovered 48 days later. Mr. Kelsey was arrested in Maryland, returned to South Carolina, convicted by a jury and given a life sentence by the presiding judge. This defendant showed no mercy regarding Melanie Richey's life. After she was killed, he along with his co-defendant, left her remains in the woods to be consumed by animal and time. The violent use of a pipe bombs the defendant made, and placed in her mouth by him, reveals the callous, heartless, and dangerous nature of Mr. Kelsey. This office is adamantly opposed to parole for Joseph Kelsey. I consider him a continued threat to society, and respectfully request that you deny his request." aqr

Case # 19

**PAROLE CASE SUMMARY**

Date: 04/12/2024

Hearing: 4/24/2024 FULL BOARD

Case #

19

NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY

SCDC: 00217218

Reviewed By: Fachman, Anna



**OFFENSE INFORMATION**

**Co-Defendants Information:**

Geoffrey Ryan Payne SCDC#227148: Murder - Sentenced 9/22/1995 to life in prison. Paroled on 04/15/2019 to Aiken County.

Jammie Lynn Lee SCDC#227147: Accessory After the fact to Murder. Sentenced 9/22/1995—10 years in prison. Maxed out 02/28/2000.

**Additional Convictions for Indictment: Not Available**

Case #: 19

**PARDON CASE SUMMARY**

Date: 04/12/2024

Hearing: 4/24/2024 FULL BOARD

Case #

19

NAME: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY

SCDC: 00217218

Reviewed By: Fahman, Anna

**PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD**

<u>Sentence Date</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Offense</u>
11/09/1994	Gen. Sess.	SC RICHLAND	Fail To Stop For Officer (Blue Light) 94-GS-40-2232
<b>Disposition:</b>	3 Years On 1 Year Suspended With 2 Years Probation; Probation allowed to run and expire while incarcerated on 6-8-1997.		
11/09/1994	Gen. Sess.	SC RICHLAND	Attempted Burglary 94-GS-40-2233 (CDR 0019/Non-Violent)
<b>Disposition:</b>	3 Years On 1 Year Suspended With 2 Years Probation; Probation allowed to run and expire while incarcerated on 6-8-1997.		
11/23/1994	Gen. Sess.	SC RICHLAND	Possession Of Stolen Auto 94-GS-40-2231
<b>Disposition:</b>	5 Years Suspended Upon Service Of 2 Years And 2 Years Probation; Probation allowed to run and expire while incarcerated on 6-8-1997.		

*Prior SC convictions are verified using available SC records and criminal history database. Crimes committed in jurisdictions outside of SC are reported as received from the FBI Databases of Criminal Data and Information.*

**SOCIAL HISTORY**

Health Status Reported by Inmate: Good

Joseph Glen Kelsey was born July 20, 1977 to Charles and Donna Kelsey. Both parents later remarried with his mother moving to Texas and his father to South Dakota. (Stepmother- Lynn Westbrook) Mr. Kelsey was born in Canada. Due to his father's job in the military, the family moved often. Mr. Kelsey has a host of brothers and sisters and was the youngest of 5 siblings. Sisters: Tonia Clade (1970)-Texas, Amanda Kelsey (1991)-MD, Janine Kelsey (1977)-MD, Tanya Saudestrom (1968)-TX, Cherry Saudestrom (1965)-TX and brothers: Benjamin Kelsey (1974)-TX, Walter Kelsey (1985)-MD, Charles Kelsey, IV (1970)-CO, Scott Saudestrom/Step-brother (1967)-TX, Charles Westbrook/Step-brother (1983)-MD. Mr. Kelsey grew up in a military household. Mr. Kelsey's parents divorced when he was 9 years old. Mr Kelsey was residing with his father when this offense occurred. There was no physical/sexual/or emotional abuse to report regarding his family background. Mr. Kelsey has no children nor military service. Mr. Kelsey was around the age of 16 when he started drinking and sampling in drug usage. This crime also occurred while he was 16 years old. Mr. Kelsey completed his GED while in SCDC and is also coming his associates in Biblical studies as he is working towards becoming a Chaplain's assistant. Mr. Kelsey also has his Work Keys Certificate. No one in his family has a criminal record. Mr. Kelsey is a tire re-tread and repair technician, and a certified forklift driver. He has worked in the capacity of an administrative clerk. This information was obtained from Mr. Kelsey's fiancée, Jennifer Montgomery.

**EXAMINER'S SPECIAL CONDITIONS:**

<u>Code</u>	<u>Text</u>
04	Must have no contact with the Victim and/or Victim's family for duration of supervision.
11	Employment/Residence.
13	Favorable psychological evaluation.
17	Must Reimburse SCDCPPS \$ _____ for the Cost of the Psychological.
37	A moderately structured supervision plan, as determined by the Agent.

SPREVIEW: Not Available

Sex Offender Registry: N

**Criteria for Parole Consideration**

CRITERIA FOR PAROLE CONSIDERATION		
		The risk the inmate poses to the community
		The nature and seriousness of the inmate's offense, circumstances surrounding the offense, and the inmate's attitude toward it
		The inmate's prior criminal records and his/her adjustment under any previous program or supervision
		The inmate's attitude toward his/her family, the victim, and authority in general
		The inmate's adjustment while in confinement, including his/her progress in counseling, therapy, and other similar programs designed to encourage the inmate to improve himself/herself
		The inmate's employment history, including his/her job training and skills and his/her stability in the work place
		The inmate's physical, mental and emotional health
		The inmate's understanding of the cause of his/her past criminal conduct
		The inmate's efforts to solve his/her problems such as seeking treatment for substance abuse, enrolling in academic and vocational education courses, and in general using whatever resources the Department of Corrections has made available to inmates to help with their problems
		The adequacy of the inmate's overall parole plan. This includes inmates living arrangements, where and with whom he/she will live; the character of those with whom the inmate plans to associate in both his/her working hours and his/her off-work hours; the inmate's plans for gainful employment
		The willingness of the community into which the inmate will be released to receive the inmate
		The willingness of the inmate's family to allow him/her to return to the family circle
		The attitudes of the sentencing judge, the solicitor, and local law enforcement officers regarding the inmate's parole
		The feelings of the victim's family, and any witnesses to the crime about the release of the inmate
		The actuarial risk and needs assessment outlined in Section 24-21-10 (F) (1) of the SC Codes of Laws which evaluates based on criminal involvement, relationships/lifestyle, personality/attitudes, family, social evolution and mental health
		Other facts considered relevant in a particular case by the Board
		<b>TOTAL</b>

*This tool is provided to assist the Board in their review and consideration of the established Criteria for Parole.*

# Exhibit 2

Inmate Name <b>KELSEY, JOSEPH GLEN</b>	SCDC# <b>00217218</b>
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The "Parole File" is defined as information compiled by the Agency for review by the SC Board of Pardons and Paroles in the course of their duty to consider cases for parole.

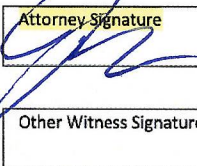
Information received from the inmate or third parties is not a part of the Agency's presentation and for the purpose of sharing parole files for review will not be reproduced.

All Victim information is redacted.

Regarding the hearing scheduled for (Hearing Date) 04/24/2024, the above-identified inmate and/or his attorney are permitted to review the parole file as prepared by the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services.

The undersigned parties acknowledge the Agency's definition of parole file and understand that any alleged discrepancies identified within the parole file will be documented and may be addressed during the active hearing with the Board. The Agency is not obligated to alter facts or details which are unsubstantiated by official records. The Board maintains full discretion to grant or deny parole, based on their established criteria.

**I certify that the above has been explained to me, and upon acknowledgement I have been granted access to review the Parole File.**

Inmate's Signature	Date	Attorney Signature	Date
			4/22/24
SCDPPPS Witness Signature	Date	Other Witness Signature (Optional)	Date
<i>VS</i> Send Safely Share	04/22/2024		

**The inmate requests a review and corrections of the file.**

*Please see attached addendum of requested changes*

**The inmate declined to review the parole file.**

Inmate's Signature	Date	Attorney Signature	Date
SCDPPPS Witness Signature	Date	Other Witness Signature (Optional)	Date

Addendum to FORM TBD, Revised 03/25/2024, Requested changes to Kelsey parole file summary:

It is now clear that Joe Kelsey has been denied parole repeatedly based on incomplete, conflicting, and thoroughly false information. SCDPPPS staff and the board have known that much of this information is false for several parole cycles. Please provide all underlying documents and sources for the false factual contentions (those that conflict with the factual findings of the South Carolina Supreme Court) in the Board Requested Information and FACTS sections of your summary record.

We further request removal of all factual findings and statements that conflict with the factual findings of the South Carolina Supreme Court.

We request the following changes to the Social History section, which has clearly not been updated in years.

At the time of this offense, Joe was residing with friends in Aiken, as his father had been transferred to an Army post in New Jersey. Joe has completed Jumpstart, he has earned his Associate's degree in the Columbia International University (CIU) Program, and has also earned a Bachelor's of Science from CIU. He recently earned an MBA. He has worked as a Hospice Volunteer, a Chaplain's Assistant, and an instructor for life-skills, anger-management, and addiction. He currently works in the Crisis Stabilization Unit for SCDC and has been trained by the National Institute of Justice as a Crisis Intervention Peer Counselor.

Please correct the file to reflect that Joe has no prior criminal offenses and that his proposed re-entry plan does not include a home in a high-crime area.

Please make the following corrections: all of Joe's disciplinary infractions were in 2003 and Joe does not have daughter. Amanda Kelsey is his sister.

# Exhibit 3

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## Parole Package for Joseph Glen Kelsey

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Submitted April 3, 2024

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*Counsel for Joseph Kelsey*

October 12, 2023

Honorable Members of the Parole Board:

It is difficult to put into words, or even understand, how depraved I had become by the age of sixteen. The youngest of five children, my twin sister and I were eight years old when our parents divorced. As a single mother, my mom did an incredible job of making ends meet. She went back to school and began a successful career, all while raising a handful of kids who definitely did not make things any easier on her. By fifteen, my misbehavior had gotten to the point where I was given a choice between military school, or going to live with my dad, who was in the military. I chose to move across the country, from Denver, Colorado to Augusta, Georgia, and see what living with my dad was like.

My dad treated me like I was a responsible, well-adjusted young adult, which I was not. I enrolled in a new high school desperately wanting the approval of my peers, but I thought that being cool meant acting like I did not care about anything. In truth, I cared way too much, but only about myself. I was horribly selfish, and failed to recognize this as the reason behind the emptiness I felt. To prove that I mattered, that my actions had significance, I often destroyed things. I stole and damaged what people cared about with no regard for how they suffered. Though no one knew to what extent, my behavior grew progressively worse.

At the beginning of the summer of 1994, when the military was to transfer us to Maryland, I asked my dad to let me stay in Augusta until grade school started at our new post. Once he was gone, I skipped between friends' houses, wherever I could find the least parental supervision. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, sixteen year old me thought I could impress my new friends, Geoff and Jamie, by showing them how to make pipebombs. Following that irresponsible and dangerous activity with another, we each went off to find alcohol, so we could get drunk later. By the time Geoff and Jamie returned, with Melanie Richey, my frame of mind allowed me to disregard her, and not care that they apparently wanted to take advantage of her. We gave her alcohol, and I did not object. She continued to resist advances made toward her, and I watched as frustrations grew.

I realize now the terrible influence that Geoff, Jamie, and I had on one another. When we left the house we were at, supposedly to take her home, Melanie's life was in our hands. If just one of us had spoken up, if I had said one word, she would have lived. But, as I had all evening, I remained silent. Instead of seeing her safely home to her family, I saw her strangled barely more than an arm's length away from me. Even after having let things reach the point of violence, had I reacted, I could still have spared Melanie's life. I had always wanted to think of myself as someone so cool, in control, and strong, even invincible, but I learned that in reality I was weak and pathetic, and worse. I did not lift a finger to save another human being, an innocent girl fighting for her life while being brutally murdered. I had allowed this to happen, instigated it even, and I stood by as her lifeless body was molested. Then, as if it were not enough to hide her body, we used my pipebomb to attempt to destroy evidence. Melanie never did a thing to deserve anything but our compassion, and had one of us shown her the least bit she would have lived.

My lack of compassion did not end there. In the weeks following, I did not see Geoff and Jamie again, but I continued to do everything wrong. I kept moving between friends' houses, my family unaware of my activities, and I drank more and more. Worse, I continued to think of myself and how I never wanted anyone to know what I had done. This was my selfish priority even when confronted by Melanie's parents' grief. I kept from them the answers they so desperately sought and deserved. For six unimaginably long weeks, I let them agonize over her whereabouts and worry about her safety, when I knew all along that she was gone forever. Even their tearful pleas were not enough to move me to share what I knew and confess my crimes.

Instead of facing what I had done, I tried to run away. I stole someone's vehicle, ran from the police when they tried to pull me over for driving erratically, and then tried to steal another vehicle. When I was arrested for these separate crimes, I was still not ready to explain what I was really running from. It was not until I stood accused of murder that I finally began to talk. But, even as I shared what happened to Melanie, I did so without accepting responsibility. I went to trial blaming Geoff and Jamie, and tried to let my age as the youngest of these killers be used as an excuse. I no longer think that way.

I regret that I needed a jury to help me recognize my guilt, and I apologize to the Richey family, and everyone else, for putting them through the ordeal of a trial. I am ashamed that I did not accept responsibility for the terrible consequences of my actions at that time, and that I did not give Melanie's loved ones the small solace of knowing that at least one of her murderers understood what he had done. I would also apologize to Mr. and Mrs. Richey for letting their anguished cries for word of their daughter go unanswered, for giving them false hope, and for allowing them to suffer the agony and terror of not knowing her fate for those forty-two unthinkably dreadful days. Most of all, I apologize for the hole I put in their hearts which will never be filled, for the unending and unfathomable sadness I brought to their lives. I am so sorry for the suffering we inflicted on Melanie in her last moments, for cutting her life so short, and for destroying her, and her family's, dreams for her life.

I will never fully understand how I had managed to become that devoid of humanity. I do not believe that I understood what compassion was until after I felt so completely undeserving of it. From the moment of my arrest, the investigators, the jailers, and the many people attached to the juvenile and adult court systems, all treated me with an overwhelming decency and pity that I felt totally unworthy of, but that I also desperately needed. I even saw compassion in the eyes of the jury that convicted me, and I knew that their verdict was just, that I was indeed guilty and deserved to go to prison.

Recognizing that I had become someone who belonged in prison was the first step toward changing who I was. Unraveling my selfish way of existence did not happen overnight, and I definitely did not do it on my own. Many people helped me to meet the challenges I would face becoming a responsible, compassionate adult in prison. However, it was my initial decision not to

waste everyone's time seeking post-conviction relief that I knew I did not deserve, which allowed me to focus on trying to comprehend the unimaginable pain my lack of compassion had caused others.

From the beginning of my incarceration, I have been able to appreciate the connection between education and rehabilitation. After getting a GED, I was allowed to stay involved in education at Lee CI. I worked for three years as a teacher's aide, helping other inmates earn their GEDs, and hopefully put their lives on a successful path. During that time, I completed the rest of the classes necessary to receive an actual high school diploma. I also had the opportunity to speak to groups of other teens, from schools on the outside, through the Operation Behind Bars program. These kids appeared genuinely impacted by my account of the terrible choices I made to put myself in prison, when I could have been in class with them.

To gain something closer to "real world" experience, I left the Education Department for what would turn into a thirteen year career as a clerk in Prison Industries (PI). I acquired many skills during my time in PI, including becoming proficient with computers. But even more importantly, I learned the significance of qualities such as integrity and responsibility, as well as the importance of things like safety, following directions, and cooperation. I tried to serve as a good example, and trained other inmates to value similar principles.

When access to new SCDC classes and programs became limited, I used wages I earned at PI to enroll in college correspondence courses and a nationally offered personal psychological development curriculum. Outside of work, I again participated in Operation Behind Bars, and helped start a new character-based living unit at Lieber CI. I also volunteered my time and computer skills to create a database for the institution's library, and trained a succession of clerks in its use.

Later, when I decided to redouble my efforts toward education, I went back to work in the Education Department. There, I used many of the skills that I had learned in PI to successfully perform my duties as an administrative clerk. I helped to start another new character-based living unit, this time at Lee CI, and served as the liaison between it and the Education Department. I also studied for and obtained WorkKeys® certification.

It was during this period that I was afforded the opportunity to participate in the most moving and rewarding experience of my incarceration. Four hours, four nights a week, I was allowed to train and serve as a hospice volunteer. Prior to that, I had found that those suffering around me could usually be comforted by listening to them and offering encouragement, but the needs of those dying in the prison infirmary required a new level of compassion and commitment. The two years I spent caring for terminally ill inmates was an incredible blessing to me, and something I hope to be involved in the future. One particular patient, even through the agony of stomach cancer, would always want to know how I was doing, and would ask to pray with and for me. In another patient's face I witnessed terrible fear, and felt so inadequately equipped to even comfort him, much less provide him with a reason for hope. That is what led me to apply to the Columbia International University (CIU) Prison Initiative at Kirkland CI.

The CIU program did so much more for me than simply allow me to earn an Associate of Arts degree in Biblical Studies. The professors poured into us a wealth of knowledge concerning how to witness to those in need, and they did so with an awesome spirit of love and respect. I grew immensely through this process. It helped to further nullify the negative, out-for-oneself mentality that too often prevails in prison, and helped me more fully appreciate why it is so important that we care for one another. During those two years, I took the opportunity to minister weekly in the youthful offender unit and the infirmary, encouraging and comforting others, while sharing my testimony. Upon graduation, I was assigned to Evans CI, where I served as a Chaplain's Assistant, facilitating Bible studies and teaching life-skills classes on subjects such as anger management, conflict resolution, and addiction.

I applied and was selected to be part of forming SCDC's Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) at Broad River CI. The CSU is a unique program that seeks to address concerns regarding care of the Department's growing mental health population. In my role as a para-professional counselor, my main responsibility is to sit one-on-one with inmates suffering serious mental health crises, and immediately report to staff any attempts they make to harm themselves. Beyond this, I am a caring presence, listening to them and offering encouragement based on my own experiences. While serving in the CSU, I have earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Columbia International University, and I am now enrolled in an MBA program through an accredited state university. I also graduated from the JumpStart program and now serve on the leadership team. Whatever the future holds, I plan to continue sharing with others the lessons I have learned, in hopes that I can prevent them from causing the kind of pain I have.

It is difficult for me to speak of deserving anything, let alone parole. I know that Melanie deserved my compassion and a chance at life. I understand that it was largely my self-centered concern for what I felt I deserved that had consumed me to the point where I lacked empathy. Much of my life since has been devoted to learning how to unfailingly consider others before myself. Throughout my incarceration, I have sought to gain skills that will not only help to ensure that I am never again a burden to others, but that will enable me to contribute to my community in a positive way. Beyond simply trying to encourage my fellow inmates and set an example, I have eagerly shared the skills and learning I have been blessed with. I have learned how to act on the compassion that is now a part of who I am. Most importantly, I believe I have grown into someone who, day after day, whether in prison or on parole, will continuously become more and more aware of what the Richey family, and the world, lost because of me.

Sincerely,

*Joseph Kelsey*

**Susan C. Knight, Ph.D., ABPP**  
*Licensed Clinical Psychologist*  
*Board-Certified Forensic Psychologist*  
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November 7, 2023

Ali Franz, Esq.  
Justice 360  
900 Elmwood Ave #200  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Re:** KELSEY, Joseph Glen  
**DOB / Age:** July 20, 1977 / 46 y.o.  
**SCDC#:** #217218

Dear Ms. Franz:

Please accept this letter in regard to your client, Mr. Joseph G. Kelsey, for his upcoming parole hearing in November 2023. In 2019, I conducted an extensive violence risk assessment in Mr. Kelsey's case. A well-validated violence risk assessment measure was utilized, the HCR-20<sup>V3</sup>, consisting of Historical, Clinical, and Risk Management items. Please see my previously submitted 19-page report generated for the prior evaluation. In 2021, I updated my evaluation, with review of new SCDC records, an interview with Mr. Kelsey, and an interview with SCDC medical staff. At present, to update his 2019 and 2021 evaluations, I conducted an interview with Mr. Kelsey on October 30, 2023; reviewed updated SCDC data for any new disciplinary or otherwise significant events; spoke with his fiancé to verify transition plan; and received information on his accomplishments and activities over the past two years.

**Update / SCDC Activities:** Mr. Kelsey remains working on the CSU [Crisis Stabilization Unit] at Broad River CI, where he has worked for seven years, assisting inmates in crisis. Just prior to his last parole hearing, he earned his Peer Support Specialist Certification at Allendale CI. The certification is through DAODAS, and is a credential accepted at community behavioral health centers. This certificate has allowed him to conduct group therapy, which is a recent development. Over the past year and a half, he has developed a unique curriculum for group therapy, implementing the curriculum on CSU. He described this experience as "awesome," as he is able to provide instruction and lead discussion on "the science behind addiction and recovery, pathways to recovery, and coping skills." Now that Mr. Kelsey has his Peer Support Specialist Certification, he must attend 20 hours of CE's each year to maintain this certificate (whether in or out of custody). He is also the only Peer Support Specialist on the CSU unit, among the 31 volunteer workers. He also leads and attends weekly Bible Study on the unit.

Additionally, Mr. Kelsey continues to take graduate-level MBA courses in Business Administration through Adams University. He has completed over one third of the requirements for graduation, and needs 12 more credits to complete his MBA. Further, Mr. Kelsey is "going through JUMPSTART for the fourth time." He has been through JUMPSTART as a participant earning a coveted 'Blue Folder;' in a leadership role as a 'Table Leader;' and taking on more leadership responsibilities as an 'Inside Leader.' He is now participating in his fourth program, again as an 'Inside Leader.' There are only three Inside Leaders in JUMPSTART, within SCDC.

**Social/Employment:** Mr. Kelsey continues to have regular weekend visits with his fiancé, Jennifer Montgomery. They visit for eight hours each month, the maximum allowed per SCDC policy. They remain committed to marriage if he is paroled, and to finding a church in the local area. They will also begin counseling, to assist with Mr. Kelsey's transition. His release plan remains unchanged, as he will reside with Ms. Montgomery, in her home, located in Augusta, Georgia. She is employed full-time as a national recruiter for a sportswear company. He continues to have an immediate standing job offer with Lambert Logistics, which is a sub-contractor for FedEx. If he requires an in-state residence, he is able to reside at JUMPSTART housing in Spartanburg, where space is available. He is a welcome resident due to his years-long commitment of excellence and leadership with JUMPSTART.

**Medical/Mental Health:** Since his 2021 update, Mr. Kelsey has no new medical conditions, is not under medical treatment, and remains healthy. He continues to have no history of mental health treatment, or mental illness. He does not take prescription medications for any condition. He reported no alcohol or drug use in many years, with records supporting his report.

**Violence Risk:** In consideration of the Board's parole criteria of, "*the risk that the offender poses to the community,*" results from the HCR-20<sup>v3</sup> remain unchanged with the updated information, in that Mr. Kelsey continues to be considered **low risk** for future violent recidivism. He has had no disciplinaries since 2004, with no history of violent disciplinaries, and thus, no incidents of violence in over 29 years, since the date of his offense. The longer the interval without violence, the likelihood of future violence exponentially decreases. Primary contributing factors to the homicide offense are no longer valid or present (e.g., immaturity, youthfulness, and attendant characteristics of impulsivity, recklessness and peer influence). Additionally, his age of 46 further reduces his risk, as youthful offenders account for the majority of violent crime.

Furthermore, certain intrinsic personality and/or character factors are associated with an increased risk of violence, namely, Antisocial Personality Disorder [ASPD] and psychopathy. Using diagnostic criteria from the DSM-5-TR, Mr. Kelsey does not meet criteria for, or exhibit any symptoms of ASPD (e.g., impulsivity, irresponsibility, physical aggression, lack of remorse, etc.). This finding is based on psychological testing conducted during the 2019 evaluation, collateral records, and updated clinical interviews in 2021 and 2023. Additionally, updated testing for his 2023 evaluation was conducted with the Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R), designed to measure inferred personality traits and behaviors related to psychopathy. Psychopathy is a clinical construct involving lack of empathy or remorse, callousness, deception, antisociality, and other factors. High levels of psychopathy are related to higher rates of criminal and violent recidivism. Mr. Kelsey's total score [2] on the PCL-R indicated that he does not exhibit the presence of any psychopathic traits. His only points are from a historical factor, given that he was 17 years old at his arrest for the present case. *[PCL-R scores range from 0 to 40, with 'average' male adults (without psychopathy) scoring within the range of 3 to 6; and scores of 30+ indicating psychopathy].*

Therefore, data and testing indicates that Mr. Kelsey does not possess these intrinsic personality and/or character risk factors, which further reduces his risk for criminality or violence.

**Transition Plan:** As in 2019 and 2021, Mr. Kelsey continues to have a robust transition plan. Arrangements are in place for stable housing; an offer of immediate full-time employment is pending; and he continues to have substantial financial, social and emotional support. Such stability in transition remains a powerful mitigator against future violence, and strongly supports a finding of ‘low’ risk.

Thank you for your attention in this matter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan C. Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Susan C. Knight, Ph.D., ABPP  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Board-Certified Forensic Psychologist

## Memorandum Supporting Parole for Joseph Glen Kelsey

### I. INTRODUCTION

Joseph Glen Kelsey (Joe) was sentenced to life imprisonment for a murder he participated in at the age of sixteen. In describing the offense, the South Carolina Supreme Court explained that the evidence “overwhelmingly prove[d]” that the victim died at the hands of his older codefendant, Geoffrey Payne: Although the cause of death was inconclusive, she either died “by Payne strangling her to death, or by Payne lighting the fuse of [a] pipe bomb that exploded in her mouth.” Simply put, Joe, the youngest of the three co-defendants, did not kill the victim—Payne did. Nevertheless, thirty years later, Joe remains incarcerated while Payne has been released by this Board.

Over the past three decades, Joe has earned two college degrees, volunteered more than a thousand hours to end-of-life care for terminally ill prisoners and crisis counseling for suicidal inmates, and completed numerous faith-based and other programs designed to ready him for release. He has a well-developed plan for reentry, which includes strong family support, stable housing, and numerous suitable employment opportunities. In short, Joe has done all he can do; it is now up to this Board to give him the same opportunity it gave his older, clearly more culpable co-defendant. Following his hearing on April 24, 2024, Joe should be granted parole.

### II. THE OFFENSE<sup>1</sup>

On July 10, 1994, when Joe was sixteen years old, a handful of teenagers got together to hang out and drink beer at the house where Joe was staying after his family moved out of state, leaving him behind. Among those teenagers were best friends Geoffrey Payne (Payne) and Jamie Lynn Lee (Lee),<sup>2</sup> neither of whom Joe knew well. They were both older than Joe.

Around midnight, Payne and Lee went to a Texaco station where they found fifteen-year-old Melanie Richey, alone and limping. They struck up a conversation with her and learned that she had cut her foot sneaking out of her house. They offered to take her with them to clean up the wound. Melanie agreed. When they got to the party, Payne “repeatedly tried to coax [her] into having sexual intercourse with him. [She] refused Payne’s advances.”<sup>3</sup> Payne was frustrated—he told Lee “he was so mad he could kill [Melanie]”<sup>4</sup>—so he laced her drink with ecstasy.

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<sup>1</sup> Except as otherwise indicated, the facts described in this memorandum are drawn from two South Carolina Supreme Court opinions: Joe’s direct appeal, *State v. Kelsey*, 331 S.C. 50, 502 S.E.2d 63 (1998), and the only other published case that discusses the codefendants’ relative culpabilities, the appeal in Geoff Payne’s post-conviction proceedings, *Payne v. State*, 355 S.C. 642, 586 S.E.2d 857 (2003). Pursuant to the Court of Appeals’ ruling in Op. No. 6020, *Kelsey v. S.C. Dep’t Prob., Parole & Pardon Servs.*, No. 2020-001473 (S.C. Ct. App. Aug. 30, 2023), undersigned counsel requested access to PPP’s parole file for Joe to confirm that the facts of the offense in the file were in accordance with the facts as found by the Supreme Court. Counsel’s request was denied.

<sup>2</sup> This codefendant’s name is alternately spelled “Jammie,” “Jamie,” and “James” in different parts of the record and published opinions. To avoid confusion, this memorandum refers to him as “Lee” throughout.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 59, 502 S.E.2d at 67.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

At 3:30 AM, after the other teenagers had fallen asleep, Melanie asked for a ride home. Payne and Lee woke Joe up and invited him to go for a drive.<sup>5</sup> Payne told Lee to bring a wrench to “to knock [Melanie] out with,”<sup>6</sup> and he told Joe to bring some pipe bombs the boys had made earlier in the day, which Joe “assumed Payne wanted to [use to] blow up mail boxes.”<sup>7</sup> The four got into Lee’s car, with Lee driving, Joe in the passenger’s seat, and Payne and Melanie in the back. “[T]he music was ‘obscenely’ loud,” and Lee “was going about 90 m.p.h.”<sup>8</sup> when he noticed Melanie’s foot had kicked the gear into neutral. Lee “turned around and saw that Payne had [Melanie] in a ‘strangle hold type position.’” A few minutes later, he heard “two quick, empty thud type sounds”<sup>9</sup> as Payne hit Melanie “twice on the head with a wrench.”<sup>10</sup> Melanie “was limp, her face was pale, and her lips were blue.” Payne announced that Melanie was “knocked out,”<sup>11</sup> “she’s not breathing. I think I’ve killed her.”<sup>12</sup> Joe, who had EMT training, checked Melanie’s pulse and was confident she was dead.<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, Payne “had sexual intercourse” with her body<sup>14</sup> and the boys carried her into the woods. Payne “instructed [Joe] to place a pipe bomb into [Melanie’s] mouth. [Joe] complied. Payne then lit the fuse, and the two ran.”<sup>15</sup>

It took law enforcement six weeks to find Melanie’s body. During that time, Melanie’s parents, desperate to find her, asked for help from the teenagers at the party the night she disappeared. When they spoke to Joe, he lied (as did Payne and Lee) about what he knew and what Payne, Lee, and he had done. He also lied to law enforcement. Joe acknowledges, and deeply regrets, that had he been truthful sooner, the Richey family would have been spared the pain of additional time not knowing what happened to their daughter.<sup>16</sup> When police eventually recovered Melanie’s body, enough time had passed that there were only “skeletal remains” left,<sup>17</sup> making it impossible for the coroner to conclusively identify how Payne killed her.<sup>18</sup>

Joe was subsequently arrested. At a joint trial, Lee testified against Payne and Joe in exchange for a reduced sentence of ten years. His testimony confirmed that Payne murdered Melanie.<sup>19</sup> Thus, although Joe was present for Melanie’s death and participated in the destruction

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<sup>5</sup> *Kelsey*, 331 S.C. at 59, 502 S.E.2d at 67.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 59–60, 502 S.E.2d at 67.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 60, 502 S.E.2d at 67–68.

<sup>10</sup> *Payne*, 355 S.C. at 645, 586 S.E.2d at 859.

<sup>11</sup> *Kelsey*, 331 S.C. at 60, 502 S.E.2d at 67–68.

<sup>12</sup> Transfer Hearing Tr. 9:21–24, *In re Kelsey*, No. 94-JU-35-14 (Dec. 5, 1994).

<sup>13</sup> *Kelsey*, 331 S.C. at 60–61, 502 S.E.2d at 68. The principle investigator into Melanie’s murder testified that Joe checked Melanie’s pulse and reported that “[s]he’s dead. I can’t find a pulse. She doesn’t seem to be breathing.” Transfer Hearing Tr. 9:21–24.

<sup>14</sup> *Payne*, 355 S.C. at 645–46, 586 S.E.2d at 859.

<sup>15</sup> *Kelsey*, 331 S.C. at 60–61, 502 S.E.2d at 68.

<sup>16</sup> In 2016, Joe sent a letter to the Richey family expressing his sincere remorse for his role in Melanie’s death.

<sup>17</sup> Transfer Hearing Tr. 6.

<sup>18</sup> Dr. Joel Sexton, the forensic pathologist who conducted the autopsy, testified that as between the three possible causes—bomb, strangulation, drug overdose—it was a “coin toss,” “fifty/fifty” how Melanie died. Trial Tr. vol. II, 1014:17–20, *State v. Kelsey & Payne*, Nos. 95-GS-35-089, 95-GS-35-090 (Sept. 15, 1995). An affidavit from Dr. Sexton reaffirming this aspect of his testimony is attached to this memorandum.

<sup>19</sup> *Payne*, 355 S.C. at 646, 586 S.E.2d at 859. The only discrepancy between Joe’s testimony and Lee’s was the precise timing of Melanie’s death. Joe testified, consistent with his statements to law enforcement, that Melanie was dead when Payne took her out of the car, whereas Lee testified that she was still alive at that point. *Compare Payne*, 355

of her body—facts he admitted at trial and for which he has accepted full responsibility—this was Payne’s crime. The words of the South Carolina Supreme Court bear repeating: The evidence “overwhelmingly proves that Payne murdered [Melanie].”<sup>20</sup> Lee has been free for over fifteen years, and on March 20, 2019, nearly five years ago, this Board paroled Payne, leaving Joe the only codefendant still incarcerated.

### III. REDEMPTION

#### A. Joe’s SCDC Accomplishments

Joe has matured in the Department of Corrections from a troubled teenager to a productive, generous, humble, and devout adult. Joe has taken advantage of the opportunities available to him to express his profound remorse for his role in Melanie’s death and to demonstrate his growth, maturity, and readiness to resume his place in society.

First, Joe has been employed continuously since he first entered SCDC in 1994 and has now been an Inmate Mental Health Companion at Broad River for over seven years. Additionally, Joe’s prison record is exemplary. He has no violent disciplinary convictions during his *entire* incarceration, something very difficult to do for a person who enters the system as a teenager, and has not had a single infraction of any kind in over twenty years.<sup>21</sup> Joe has maintained this nearly perfect institutional record by a deliberate process of educating himself and growing his faith.

Joe is a devout Christian and his deep and abiding faith has led him to seek out opportunities to serve those in his SCDC community. Several years ago, he finished Jump Start’s rehabilitation program with a “blue folder,” Jump Start’s highest level of certification, and he recently finished JumpStart’s Leadership Training Program. His mentor at Broad River, Mr. Gary R. Minion, explained that in the weekly JumpStart meetings, Joe is “passionate in his commitment to his God, seeking to improve himself since his incarceration, and demonstrates care for fellow residence [sic].” And his mentor in the JumpStart Leadership Training program, Mac Ogburn, describes Joe as having been “one of the outstanding leaders in the program from the very beginning,” by “tak[ing] the initiative to embrace the program and its values and giv[ing] guidance to many in the program in addition to other inmates at BRCI.” When he was incarcerated at Evan Correctional Institution, Joe worked as a Chaplain Assistant, teaching Bible studies and life-skills classes, until he was moved to Broad River.<sup>22</sup>

Joe has also been involved in various secular programs. In 2013, he completed Prisoner Assistance Scholastic Services, a six-month rehabilitative education program with ten modules related to conflict-resolution and violence-reduction. He later went on to teach those same classes. Additionally, in 1997 and in 2011—at Lee and Lieber, respectively—Joe volunteered to share his

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S.C. at 646, 586 S.E.2d at 859 (“After Payne strangled the victim, . . . [Joe] testified that the victim was dead.”) *with id.* (“After Payne strangled the victim, Lee testified that the victim was still alive.”).

<sup>20</sup> *Payne*, 355 S.C. at 646, 586 S.E.2d at 859.

<sup>21</sup> Joe’s only major disciplinary violation in twenty-five years of incarceration was for using marijuana in 2003.

<sup>22</sup> A letter from Thomas Speigal, one of Joe and Melanie’s high school friends, is attached to this memorandum. Mr. Speigal, also a devout Christian, described meeting with Joe and “see[ing] the light of Christ in him. He has a sense of peace that I am striving to achieve. . . . [Joe] is developing a relationship with God that truly inspires me.” Mr. Speigal plans to be “a constant contact for [Joe] during the rest of his life (no matter where that takes place).”

experiences with young people through Operation Behind Bars, and he was a charter resident at Lieber's Character-Based Unit in 2012 and at Lee's in 2013.

Joe also used his technological skills to design a library database at Lieber Correctional, which he completed over a multi-year period. He then taught a sequence of incoming library clerks how to use the database, and it remains in use at SCDC today. Similarly, when Joe worked as an administrative clerk he designed methods to handle inventory, billing, and personnel files. His work was of such a high quality that the applications he developed have been shared across prison industries at other correctional institutions, including MacDougall, Ridgeland, and McCormick. Joe later designed a database in the education system to track student enrollment and scheduling. Additionally, he served on the Student Advisory Council at Lee Correctional Institution's PUSD ABE High School, a position that drew on his leadership and teaching abilities. When Joe worked as a teacher's aide, his supervisor described him as "a hard-working, self-motivated, and quiet worker" and "an asset to the education program" who displayed "diligence, obedience, loyalty, punctuality, truthfulness, flexibility, responsibility, and dependability."

Joe has taken advantage of all the educational opportunities available to him. Within a year of his incarceration, he earned his GED, scoring so high (top five percent of test-takers that year) that he received a letter of commendation from the State Superintendent of Education. In June of 1998, Joe earned a diploma from Summerville High School, and that month he began tutoring other inmates to help them achieve their GEDs. When Joe took the WorkKeys skill exam in 2002, he scored in the very top percentiles in each of the three domains tested.<sup>23</sup> His scores on this test, as well as his continued education, earned him a WorkKeys Certification (Gold) in 2012.

In 2013, Joe was one of a small handful of inmates selected for the Columbia International University (CIU) Prison Initiative Program, a faith-based education program that admits students based on their intellectual potential as well as their peace-making skills and ability to "provide a positive impact on the prison population."<sup>24</sup> Joe graduated in December 2015 with a 4.0 GPA and an Associate's Degree in IT Training and Comparative Religion. In the words of one of the CIU professors, Professor Stephen Baarendse, Joe is "a fine example of rehabilitation in prison, and when I think of him, I can't help but think of his biblical namesake, who during his time in prison lived with integrity and served his fellow prisoners and supervisors well." Another, Professor Mike Thompson, wrote that Joe "has one of the brightest minds that I've encountered in my 20 plus years of teaching. . . . While he has the capacity to teach the courses I led, Joseph always kept the posture of a humble learner."

Grace Dye, the Assistant Director of the CIU program who has known Joe for six years, wrote a letter on her own behalf urging this Board to grant Joe parole. She described Joe as follows:

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<sup>23</sup> Joe scored as follows: 90/90 on applied mathematics, placing him in the highest possible testing level; 81/90 on locating information, placing him in the second highest possible testing level; and 87/90 on reading for information, placing him in the highest possible testing level.

<sup>24</sup> The CIU Prison Initiative Program's selection process is "rigorous and competitive." CIU only admits 15 inmates annually, and students are required to focus "all of their time and energy on academics during their two years in the program and graduate with an accredited Associate of Arts Degree upon completion."

Joe is by far one of the gentlest and most determined men I've ever met. . . . Mr. Joseph Kelsey would be an excellent candidate for parole based on the maturity and character I've consistently seen displayed in his life over the years that I have known him. He has refused to waste his years of incarceration and has, instead, chosen to serve others and to continue to challenge himself to grow through on-going education. He has a strong support system, a solid education, and a clear vision for life. **Mr. Kelsey is the kind of man I would want for a neighbor and believe our community would be better for having him as part of it.**

After graduating from CIU, Joe continued his education by taking correspondence courses at Ashworth College. He was awarded a Bachelor's of Science Degree in General Studies (with a concentration in Business Administration) in December 2019, again graduating with a 4.0 GPA. And after earning his bachelor's degree, Joe became one of very few SCDC inmates to pursue a master's degree while incarcerated. Since 2020, he has been enrolled in courses at Adams State University in pursuit of a master's degree in Business Administration. As with both of his previous degrees, Joe maintains a 4.0 GPA.

Perhaps the best testament to Joe's rehabilitation is his work with hospice and the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). Joe volunteered with the hospice service at Kirkland R&E Correctional Institute during his incarceration at that institution, providing terminally ill inmates with physical and emotional support at the end of their lives. When Joe moved to Broad River in 2016, due to his success in the CIU program and experience as a hospice volunteer, he was eligible to serve as an Inmate Mental Health Companion (previously Para-Professional Counselor) in Broad River's Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), a mental health program created by SCDC "to address and provide therapeutic treatment to inmates identified as being in a state of critical mental instability."

As a Mental Health Companion, Joe is "responsible for observing crisis inmates with the directive of providing emotional support, modeling positive behaviors, and alerting relevant staff if medical care is needed or behavioral concerns are noted." Joe was one of the first inmate observer volunteers during the CSU's inaugural year, and for the past seven years, he has worked with CSU employees to provide treatment to inmates suffering mental health crises. Although Joe has a level 2 custody classification (making him eligible for transfer to a lower-custody facility and a character-based unit), he has opted to remain at Broad River so he can continue to work with the CSU because that is where he believes the need is greatest. Joe, moreover, has gone beyond the requirements of the counselor role, volunteering to operate a client library that provides inmates on the CSU with donated books, including Bibles. He also volunteers as an office clerk, spending several hours each week preparing and filing internal reports.

Joe has received multiple commendations—including one from Director of SCDC Bryan Stirling—"for his devoted and enthusiastic service to the program." The manager of the CSU, Paul Dennis, describes Joe as displaying "exemplary patience, understanding, and compassion," and noted that "on and off the job, he is a caring, respectful, and dependable example to his fellow inmates." Another supervisor and mental health professional at the CSU, C. Austin Edmundson, has noted that Joe "has shown growth from his time and prison" and, if released, "would be successful" because he "has all of the characteristics to be a positive and impactful member of the community." Ann-Marie Elwood, RN, who also works with Joe at the CSU, wrote that she has

“witnessed first-hand Mr. Kelsey give up his personal time to assist and pray with inmates in their time of great need.” Finally, Robert Karpe, another mental health professional who works with Joe in the CSU, noted that Joe “has demonstrated exemplary character in his job duties” and “goes above and beyond his role,” and that “of all the men I have worked with in the Department of Corrections, Joseph Kelsey has by far and away been the most parole eligible and deserving.”

Joe has also completed multiple courses in furtherance of his work with the CSU. Most recently, in 2021, he earned his certification as a Peer Support Specialist. In this role, Joe serves as a peer counselor to inmates struggling with substance use disorders and also helps coordinate treatment between inmates and treatment staff, which includes educating inmates on the dangers of drug addiction and working with inmates individually to develop treatment plans with the ultimate goal of ending their drug use altogether. Joe also develops and leads his own course curriculum designed to assist inmates in overcoming addiction. Nichole Lowder, the Peer Support Program Manager, who has worked closely with Joe over his past several years in the program, described Joe as “the most humble, quiet, patient” inmate she works with and noted that Joe “is always the first to provide information to us to help other individuals.” Joe has expressed a desire to continue his peer support work on the outside, and Ms. Lowder is ready and willing to assist him with finding employment in that field.

### *B. Joe’s Psychological Evaluation*

Dr. Susan Knight, a board-certified forensic psychologist, performed a full psychological evaluation of Joe to assess his “developmental and psychosocial functioning prior to his incarceration; functioning over his incarceration; risk for future violence; and transition needs.”<sup>25</sup> Dr. Knight’s evaluation confirms what Joe’s actions demonstrate: He is rehabilitated and extremely unlikely to reoffend. On a comprehensive measure of risk of violence, taking into account historical, clinical, and risk management variables, Dr. Knight found that Joe is at a low risk for committing future violent offenses, with strong protective factors in place. And SCDC staff who spoke with Dr. Knight described Joe as “very dependable,” as an inmate who “has integrity,” as “calm, mild-mannered” and “trustworthy,” and as a “model inmate.” In sum, Dr. Knight concluded, Joe “exhibits the requisite clinical stability for successful community reintegration, with a low risk of future violence, and a secure transition plan.”

## IV. RELEASE PLAN

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<sup>25</sup> A copy of Dr. Knight’s report is attached to this memorandum. Dr. Knight’s evaluation was more comprehensive than the standard psychological evaluation administered to individuals post-parole but pre-release. Specifically, Dr. Knight performed three clinical interviews with Joe totaling 10 hours plus telephone interviews with many members of his family. She gave Joe the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (MMPI-2), a tool designed to assess personality and affective functioning, and the HCR-20<sup>V3</sup>, a tool designed to assess an individual’s future risk of violence. Dr. Knight evaluated Joe for any mental conditions or diagnoses detailed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V). With respect to the MMPI-2, Dr. Knight reported that Joe’s results “were indicative of someone with high self-confidence, minimal emotional distress, regrets regarding life decisions, good sociality, and well-controlled anger and frustration tolerance.” With respect to the HCR-20<sup>V3</sup>, Dr. Knight reported that Joe “represents a low risk for future violent acts.” And with respect to her clinical evaluation for DSM-V diagnoses or mental conditions, Dr. Knight found that Joe has no mental disorders or any other DSM-V diagnosis.

During Joe's incarceration, he has maintained and renewed healthy and loving relationships with his family members and friends. He has the full support of his family, including his father, step-mother, mother, and siblings. Joe plans to marry his fiancée, Jennifer Montgomery, a talent acquisition director for Augusta Sportswear in Georgia, upon his release. After their marriage, they plan to live in Jennifer's home in Augusta. Pursuant to the Interstate Compact, Joe is eligible for parole transfer to Georgia and his transfer would likely be approved before his release. *See* Interstate Commission Rule 3.101. If not, Jennifer and her mother, who also lives in Augusta, are prepared to support Joe's reentry with unconditional love, transportation, and financial assistance. Joe has secured employment with Lambert Logistics, an international delivery service company in Augusta.<sup>26</sup> Long-term, Joe plans to continue to serve his community in any way he is able, including volunteering to speak to at-risk youth, donating his time as a hospice caregiver, or engaging in faith-related service. If he does settle in Augusta, Joe will join Jennifer's church, and he will continue to be actively involved in Bible studies and ministry.

## V. CONCLUSION

Joe Kelsey has accepted responsibility for his role in Melanie Richey's death, and over his nearly thirty years of incarceration has taken advantage of every opportunity available to him in SCDC to improve his character and prepare himself for release. He has a solid release plan in place and the values, faith, work ethic, and skills to be a productive member of society. Further, the circumstances of Joe's offense place him in a unique position: Joe was the youngest and least culpable of the three individuals charged with Melanie Richey's murder, but is the only one who still remains in prison. Jamie Lee was released many years ago. Four years ago, this Board granted parole to Geoffrey Payne, who was older than Joe, who set the whole series of events culminating in Melanie's death in action, and who is the person the South Carolina Supreme Court found the evidence "overwhelmingly prove[d] . . . murdered [Melanie]."<sup>27</sup> It would be the height of arbitrariness to release Payne and keep Joe Kelsey behind bars.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Joe Kelsey should be granted parole.

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<sup>26</sup> Joe also has housing and employment options available through JumpStart, with his father in South Dakota, or with his mother in Texas.

<sup>27</sup> *Payne*, 355 S.C. at 646, 586 S.E.2d at 859.

Lambert Logistics, Inc.

914 Big Oak Circle

Martinez, GA 30907

Dear Honorable Members of the Parole Board,

My name is Casey Lambert, President of Lambert Logistics, Inc. I have reviewed the file of Mr. Joseph Kelsey and am fully aware of his history, the incident for which he was incarcerated and the sentence he has served. I am also confident after perusing his accomplishments while in prison, that he would be a valuable asset to my team.

Lambert Logistics, Inc. acts as an independent contractor to FedEx in the distribution sector. As you may be aware, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on businesses like mine, as the demand for rapid residential and commercial delivery has increased exponentially without a corresponding increase in the number of qualified, professional drivers. Our agreement with FedEx requires skilled drivers to deliver goods to homes and businesses in a timely manner with the utmost levels of safety and quality. Anyone with ambition, a desire to be part of a team, and the willingness to put forth the efforts required can be successful in this field, even if they do not have experience in this specific line of work. I believe that Mr. Kelsey would be an outstanding employee, and routes Mr. Kelsey could potentially operate would put him in the Greater Augusta area, including locations in South Carolina.

On a deeper level, it appears Mr. Kelsey has served his time and is attempting to proceed with the next stages of life. I am inclined to hire him on that premise alone; furthermore I feel his life experiences and the attitude with which he carries himself have convinced me that he would not only positively affect my organization, but also others with whom he comes in contact with on a daily basis.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone at 706-496-5432 should you require additional information regarding this position. This letter may serve as my offer of employment should you choose to grant parole to Mr. Kelsey.

Cordially Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey Lambert', enclosed within a large, loopy, oval-shaped scribble.

Casey Lambert

President, Lambert Logistics, Inc.

# ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY

C O L O R A D O

Great Stories Begin Here

## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OFFICIAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

SSN \*\*\*-\*\*-5647

Date of Birth: 20-JUL

Date Issued: 20-SEP-2022

Record of: Joseph Glenn Kelsey  
#217218  
Brci/Greenwood-B2094  
4460 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

Page: 1

Issued To: Joseph Glenn Kelsey  
#217218  
Brci/Greenwood B2094  
Columbia, SC 29210

***** TRANSCRIPT TOTALS *****				
	Earned Hrs	GPA Hrs	Points	GPA
TOTAL INSTITUTION	9.00	9.00	36.00	4.00
TOTAL TRANSFER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OVERALL	9.00	9.00	36.00	4.00
***** END OF TRANSCRIPT *****				

Course Level: Graduate

Events: Graduate Degree Admission

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED	GRD	PTS	R
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**INSTITUTION CREDIT:**

Summer 2020					
BUS 500	Leadership Skills for Managers	3.00	A	12.00	
Ehrs:	3.00	GPA-Hrs:	3.00	Qpts:	12.00 GPA: 4.00
Fall 2020					
ECON 505	Managerial Economics	3.00	A	12.00	
Ehrs:	3.00	GPA-Hrs:	3.00	Qpts:	12.00 GPA: 4.00
Fall 2021					
BUS 505	Creating Consumer Value	3.00	A	12.00	
Ehrs:	3.00	GPA-Hrs:	3.00	Qpts:	12.00 GPA: 4.00
Fall 2022					
IN PROGRESS WORK					
BUS 530	Organizational Behavior	3.00	IN PROGRESS		
In Progress Credits 3.00					

\*\*\*\*\* CONTINUED ON NEXT COLUMN \*\*\*\*\*

AN OFFICIAL SIGNATURE IS WHITE WITH A GREEN BACKGROUND REJECT DOCUMENT IF SIGNATURE BELOW IS DISTORTED

This officially sealed and signed transcript is printed on green SGRIP-SAFE® security paper with the name of the university printed in white type across the face of the document. A raised seal is not required. When photocopied the word COPY should appear. A BLACK ON WHITE OR A COLOR COPY SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED.

M. Belén García, Registrar



THE WORD COPY APPEARS IF PHOTOCOPIED

A BLACK AND WHITE TRANSCRIPT IS NOT OFFICIAL

To: Honorable Members of the South Carolina Board of Pardons and Paroles

From: Robert Karpe MA, LPC-A, NCC

Subject: Joseph Kelsey #217218

Date: 10/11/2023

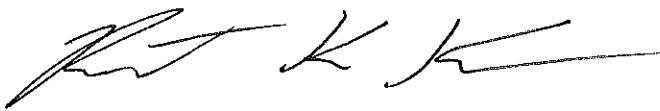
Honorable Members of the South Carolina Board of Pardons and Paroles,

My name is Robert Karpe, and I am a Mental Health Professional for the South Carolina Department of Corrections. I have served the department in different roles and capacities since February 2016; I have served in my recent role as a Mental Health Professional II for SCDC's male Crisis Stabilization Unit since May of 2023. The Crisis Stabilization Unit is a 32-bed inpatient facility whose purpose is to stabilize male offenders from across the state. The unit is equipped with 24 hour staffing to include security personnel, medical staff, mental health staff, and inmate watchers. Inmate watchers are inmates who have undergone intensive supervision and training, have received associate degrees from Columbia International University, and are tasked with providing support to patients and engaging in constant observation for patient's in need of constant observation. It is in this capacity that I have had the opportunity to work with and get to know Joseph Kelsey.

Mr. Kelsey, from the day I began working at CSU, has demonstrated exemplary character in his job duties and how he conducts himself with staff, patients, and peers. He goes above and beyond his role as an inmate watcher and peer support specialist, and has never been anything but polite, respectful, and courteous in his dealings with me. Mr. Kelsey and I have spoken on several occasions regarding what lead him to prison in the first place; from what Mr. Kelsey described to me he is no longer the individual who committed the crime he committed all those years ago.

During my time in the department, I have met worked with thousands of incarcerated men of various demographics and backgrounds. I have worked with men who were parole eligible, and of all the men I have worked with in the Department of Corrections Joseph Kelsey #217218 has by far and away been the most parole eligible and deserving. He has proven through his actions and words the sincerity of his character, and would be an asset to any community he re-enters. He has met the criteria listed in the 'Criteria for Parole Consideration' and has without a doubt proven he has become a man deserving of freedom. Thank you for your time in this matter, and I hope you all have a blessed day.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Karpe', written in a cursive style.

Robert Karpe MA, LPC-A, NCC

**Education:**

Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies – thru Columbia International University’s (CIU) Prison Initiative

- Demonstrated educational and spiritual growth, while obtaining the biblical understanding necessary to authentic Christian service and positive interpersonal relationships.

Bachelor of Science in General Studies, with a concentration in Business Administration – from CIU

- Completed 120 credit hours (forty courses) in the areas of General Education, Bible and Theology, and Leadership Development and Spiritual Formation, with twenty-seven hours in the area of concentration.

Personal Psychological Development Diploma/PASS Program

- Conferred by the Prisoner Assistance Scholastic Service, the only nationwide school for rehabilitation for prisoners, this diploma recognizes completion of an intensive set of ten courses: Domestic Violence, Victim Awareness, Anger Management, Conflict Resolution, Nonviolent Communication, Gang Diversion, Addiction, Parenting, Living with Purpose, and Re-Entry into Society. Each course required completion of workbook and a passing grade on a three-essay exam.

WorkKeys® Certification (Gold)

- Completed the computer-based learning program for this national workforce development system, and when tested scored the highest level possible for Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information, and the second highest level possible for Locating Information.

**Training:**

Certified Peer Support Specialist

- Completed DAODAS/SC FAVOR CPSS training, gaining education to help provide other inmates with substance use disorders and/or at risk for substance use disorders additional support while incarcerated, in an effort to reduce recidivism, increase treatment retention, and improve outcomes.

Hospice Care Training

- Completed classroom and hands-on training, read and passed an exam on the 100 page training manual, and shadowed an experienced hospice worker, to acquire and demonstrate skill and understanding in areas like universal precautions, physical care and hygiene, communication, and spiritual needs.

Inmate Mental Health Companion Training

- Learned how to effectively assist in suicide prevention and serve as a positive influence in the lives of inmates suffering serious mental health crises. Training included sessions on recognizing and understanding mental illnesses, such as borderline and antisocial personality disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and schizophrenia, and how to respond to psychiatric emergencies.

JumpStart Leadership Training

- Encouraged focus on Jesus as leadership role model, with goal of making a difference in our world by being effective servant leaders. Training challenged participants to examine what they think of themselves as leaders, and promoted positive habits that will help them move beyond success to significance. As a requirement for future table leaders, this training is given primarily to blue folder JumpStart graduates who have been unanimously approved by the existing leadership. This is a 40 plus week program in conjunction with *Lead Like Jesus: Lessons for Everyone from the Greatest Leadership Role Model of All Time*, by Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges, and a 325 pg. workbook.

Powered Industrial Vehicle (Forklift) Training Certification

- Viewed a video series, and passed a written exam and a hands-on exam, on the proper and safe operation of powered industrial vehicles in SCDC’s Prison Industries complex.

Tire Retread and Repair Technician – Pre-Q Rubber Company

- Attended classroom instruction and hands-on training, and passed written and hands-on exams to demonstrate proficiency in all areas of tire retreading and repairing.

**Work History:**

Administrative Clerk, Education - Lee CI

- Designed and maintained database to track student enrollment and scheduling. Maintained filing systems.

Administrative Clerk, Prison Industries - Lieber CI

- Involved in all clerical aspects of operating four Industry programs. As the complex's primary computer programmer, designed and maintained databases to handle inventory/requisitioning, production, billing, and personnel. Maintained filing systems.

Chaplain Assistant - Evans CI

- Facilitated Bible studies and life-skills classes, set up and cleaned the sanctuary, and performed clerical duties.

Clerk, Education/Guidance Counselor's Office - Lee CI

- Assisted in the administration of the Test of Adult Basic Education, and maintained paperwork and filing systems.

Para-professional Counselor, Crisis Stabilization Unit - Broad River CI

- Perform constant observation of inmates suffering mental health crises, while documenting their behavior and alerting staff of attempts at self-harm or any other danger to their well-being, and serving as a caring listener and ready source of encouragement. Serve in a clerical capacity, recording meeting minutes, distributing and collecting paperwork, and maintaining filing systems for non-sensitive records. Inventory and restock medical treatment room, and issue and collect razors for inmate workers. Clean occasional biohazards, and perform a routine custodial duty.

Student in the CIU Prison Initiative - Kirkland CI

- Completed an Associate of Arts in Biblical Studies, while ministering at least once a week to youthful offenders in the YOA unit.

Teacher Assistant, GED Education - Lieber CI

- Tutored inmates in preparation for their taking the test of General Educational Development.

**Additional Experience:**

Hospice Volunteer

- Worked in two prison infirmaries to provide terminally ill inmate patients with physical, psycho-social, emotional, and spiritual care, with the goal of relieving pain and symptoms, and enriching the quality of their life. Care included feeding, bathing, changing, turning, writing letters for and reading to, playing games with, and offering positive companionship.

Library Volunteer

- Designed and maintained a library database, and trained a succession of clerks in its use.

Operation Behind Bars

- Led groups of teenaged students and Pre-trial Intervention participants on tours of prison, and spoke to them about the decisions that led to my incarceration.

Student Advisory Council

- Attended regular meetings to bring school issues and concerns to the staff.

**Faith-based Programs:**

**Boundaries**

- Encourages participants to set healthy boundaries for governing their own lives and their interpersonal relationships. This class uses biblical principles to help participants understand the way in which physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual boundaries define who we are and what our responsibilities are as Christians. The 12-week curriculum is based on the book *Boundaries: When to Say yes, When to Say No, to Take Control of Your Life*, by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend, and includes a DVD series and workbook.

**JumpStart**

- Strives to break the back of recidivism by discipling men and women inside and outside prison, while focusing on the values of responsibility, accountability, and authority. It challenges participants to confront issues and helps them to understand and live out their God-given purpose in everyday life. This program, facilitated by volunteer mentors from the outside, requires faithful attendance at twice a week meetings and completion of several surveys/inventories. Participants are graded and receive a red, yellow, green, or blue folder, with green and blue signifying successful graduation, and blue indicating leadership potential. This is a 40 plus week program in conjunction with *The Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren, and a 240 page workbook.

**Kiaros**

- Welcomes prisoners into this continuing ministry with a four-day walk, in which a multitude of outside volunteers teach, primarily, the unconditional love of God. The inducting walk is followed by regular reunions, which continue to disciple members with the teachings of Jesus.

**Men's Fraternity: The Quest for Authentic Manhood**

- Helps men understand their identity and shows them how to make the pursuit of manhood a lifelong priority that is incorporated into their daily lives. It offers a clear definition of what manhood is, as one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and expects the greater reward to come from God. It also challenges each man to develop his own personalized manhood plan. Designed by Robert Lewis, this is a 24-week curriculum in conjunction with the DVD series and a 95 page workbook.

**Men's Fraternity: Winning at Work and & Home**

- Gives a game plan for achieving happiness and satisfaction at work and home, providing the tools necessary to build confidence, expand vision, develop successful life strategies, and improve performance in relationships. Designed by Robert Lewis, this is a 16-week curriculum in conjunction with the DVD series and a 93 page workbook.

**Pure Life Ministries**

- Teaches people how to avoid and overcome the dangers of sexual addiction, through deep repentance, spiritual warfare and accountability, so that instead of succumbing to the sensuality of our culture we may live in purity and freedom. This 12-week course works through the book *At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry*, by Steve Gallagher, and includes a DVD series and workbook.

**RH ELECTRICAL AND MAINTENANCE INC.**  
**DBA MAINTENANCE UNLIMITED**  
**TECL# 31531**

Free Estimates



We now rent U-Haul trucks and trailers

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4531 Ayers St. Ste. 314 • C.C. TX, 78415 • Office: (361) 334-1219 • Fax: (361) 334-1326 • [Maintulimited@aol.com](mailto:Maintulimited@aol.com)

October 4, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Parole Board:

My name is Richard Hernandez, owner, and operator of RH Electrical and Maintenance, Inc. in Corpus Christi, Texas. I have reviewed the file of Joseph Kelsey and am aware of his history, the crime for which he has been incarcerated, and the sentence he has served. We have known Joe's mother and stepfather since they moved to Corpus Christi in 2013 and have done several repairs and remodeling jobs at their home.

Having seen the reports and recommendations made by Joe's supervisors and teachers I believe Joe would be an asset to my company. Although he has no documented skills in residential or commercial construction, his records show a diligent, careful worker, with the willingness to learn any task or skill required. It appears that Joe has served his time productively serving others and improving himself. His life experiences in prison and the attitude with which he presents himself have been positive.

Please consider this letter an offer of employment for Joe to work in my company. If he should be paroled to Texas, and he accepted this offer, he and his fiancé would have a good start with a family and community who care about one another.

This is a full-time job offer. With starting wages at \$13.00 an hour.

If you have additional questions about this position, please contact me by phone

Sincerely,



Richard Hernandez

PAINTED CLOUDS FARM, INC.  
2138 MINNEKAHTA AVE  
HOT SPRINGS, SD 57747  
(605) 662-7020

October 12, 2019

South Carolina Parole Board  
Columbia, SC 29260

Joseph Kelsey 217218  
Kirkland C.I.- B2/3-A  
4344 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: POSITION WITH PAINTED CLOUDS FARM, INC.

Dear Joe:

Painted Clouds Farm, INC. (PCF), is prepared to immediately offer you long-term, rent free housing of a completely furnished modern five bedroom home in Hot Springs, SD in exchange for maintenance of the property and part time labor (not to exceed 20 hours weekly) at the PCF facility. The work hours will be flexible around any other employment you assume in the area.

Sincerely,

Lynn F. Westberg  
PRESIDENT  
PAINTED CLOUDS FARM, INC.



Woolly's LLC  
1648 Hwy 18 Byp.  
HOT SPRINGS, SD 57747  
(605) 745-6414

October 13, 2019

South Carolina Parole Board  
Columbia, SC 29260

Joseph Kelsey 217218  
Kirkland C.I.- B2/3-A  
4344 Broad River Road  
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: POSITION WITH Woolly's LLC

Dear Joe:

Woolly's LLC (Woolly's Grill & Cellar) is prepared to immediately offer you part time work (not to exceed 20 hours weekly during the non-tourist winter season-with the opportunity to expand to 40 hours when the tourist arrive in April) at our family restaurant in Hot Springs, SD. Job duties would include but not be limited to: dish washing, cleaning, and food prep. Work hours can be flexible; however weekends and holidays will be required.

Having lived in this area for twelve years now, we interact daily with many members of this community (directly through this business and also through community service organizations). Thus, we feel comfortable that we will be able to help introduce you to many good people in the area (including several who are connected with the local churches as well as the local Bible College-since this is an area of interest to you that clearly jumps out from your resume). We can also introduce you to the managers of the local Ambulance Service and the Hospital (as these also appear to be areas of interest to you).

Sincerely,

Phil & Vicky Wetzel  
PRESIDENT & OWNERS  
of Woolly's LLC and Woolly's Grill & Cellar

Joe plans to marry and reside with his fiancée, Jennifer Montgomery, in her home in Augusta, Georgia, upon his release.

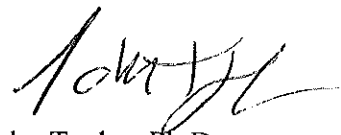


February 14, 2022

Joseph Kelsey (217218):

I wanted to take a moment to thank you, once again, for the outstanding work you are doing at CSU. It takes a remarkable man to find himself in a bad situation and to make a conscious decision to use his time helping others rather than being defeated by his circumstance. The Inmate Companions have proven themselves to be remarkable men.

You have personally made an important difference in so many other men's lives. Men have received comfort, guidance and remain alive due to your efforts. Without you, we would not have an effective CSU. Thank you for what you do each and every day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Taylor".

John Taylor, Ph.D.  
SCDC – Chief of Psychology

September 20, 2021  
Happy National Addiction  
Professionals Day!

**ADDICTION**  
**PROFESSIONALS**  
**ARE AMAZING!**



Dear Mr. Joseph Kelsey,

Happy National Addiction Professionals Day! This is a day on which we celebrate and commemorate all the hard work addiction professionals do on a daily basis. Welcome to our team! I appreciate your interest in the Peer Support Program. This role will pair nicely with your continued effort to increase awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders while celebrating others in recovery!

As an addiction professional, you are a vital player of the health system and continuum of care. I want you to know that you are valued. You are significantly appreciated and welcomed as a part of this team. I also welcome your suggestions for the betterment of the program.

Once again, thank you for your hard work. Specialists like you are an asset! Thank you for all you do and thank you for being part of our team!

*Nichole Lowder*

*Ms. Lowder, CPSS, NCPSS*  
**Peer Support/MAT Supervisor**  
**Behavioral Health Services**  
**South Carolina Department of Corrections**

TO: Honorable Members of the Parole Board

From: Shenelle Hanley, M.A., LPC-A, NCC

Subject: Joseph Kelsey (217218)

Date: January 14, 2021

Dear Members of the Parole Board:

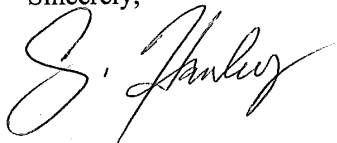
I understand Joseph Kelsey will be considered for parole release by the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services. Since his imprisonment, Kelsey has taken advantage of various programs to improve his life and motivate other offenders to turn their lives around.

I have worked alongside Kelsey for nearly three years during my assignment to the Crisis Stabilization Program. Kelsey was responsible for the observation of crisis inmates while providing mentorship using Christian -based teachings inherited during his academic pursuits at Columbia International University. He also assisted staff with administrative duties. Kelsey exhibits dedication towards his work responsibilities. In addition, he maintains a pleasant and positive attitude towards staff members and incarcerated individuals. He has been an exceptional role model to other incarcerated offenders by imitating respectful conduct, enthusiasm, and practicing humility.

I believe that Kelsey has used his time incarcerated wisely, his accomplishments proves that. Kelsey is non-violent and he does not pose a threat to the community. I am optimistic that his efforts to reintegrate with society will go well.

Thank you for your service to the State of South Carolina and for this opportunity to provide input into this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Hanley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sincerely,".

March 19, 2021

**To: Members of the Parole Board**  
**From: Joyce Spivey, CMA**  
**Subject: Joseph Kelsey (217218)**

In January of 2018, after working two years at Broad River Correctional Institution in Main Medical, I was transferred to the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). One of my duties in the CSU is to keep the medical supplies ordered and up-to-date.

I received permission from the Unit Manager, Mr. Dennis, to allow one of the Inmate Mental Health Companions to help me. Kelsey had been assisting the medical staff for some time, and I asked him if he would continue to do so. With no hesitation, he said yes.

Kelsey's attitude toward employees and inmates is phenomenal. He has a spirit of God to help others. Even when his primary responsibility requires him to spend four hours one-on-one with a crisis inmate, he always makes himself available to do extra tasks once his shift is over.

Lastly, after my shift, I would often stay to study Math, so I could go back to nursing school. Unfortunately, I failed a key exam three times. Kelsey saw me struggling and volunteered to help. Well, I am pleased to report that, thanks in no small part to his help and encouragement, I passed!

Kelsey would make a difference in society because his spirit is real, his heart is warm, and his compassion is endless. I truly hope he is given an opportunity to live free.

Sincerely,

  
Joyce Spivey, CMA

Mr. Gary R. Minion  
1013 Orangeburg Dr.  
West Columbia, S.C. 29169

June 26, 2019

South Carolina Department of  
Probation, Parole and Pardon Services  
ATTN: C/O JON OZMINT  
P.O. BOX 6814  
Columbia, S.C. 29260

RE: JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY SCDC ID: (00217218)

PAROLE HEARING

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE PAROLE BOARD:

My name is Mr. Gary Minion, I am a graduate of Columbia International University, and Retiree of AT&T after 32 years of service. For the past 7 years I have devoted my time to minister to the residence at BRCI.

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Joseph Glen Kelsey. Mr. Kelsey graduated the Faith-Based Prison Rehabilitation JUMPSTART program with the highest rating we offer. He is also a graduate of Columbia International University Prison Initiative program with an Associates of Bible Degree and now working on finishing completely coursework to receive a Bachelors Degree from CIU.

I have known Mr. Kelsey for 3 years in a mentoring capacity, He regrets his past and is remorseful of his actions and looking forward for what the future holds for him. He is a capable table leader in our weekly JUMPSTART meetings as well as weekly group meetings in his dorm, I have found him to be passionate in his commitment to his God, seeking to improve himself since his incarceration, and demonstrates care for fellow residence. He is presently mentoring residents of the Greenwood Dorm through the CIU prison program. If he is paroled he would be eligible for JUMPSTART housing at 458 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC. 29303 if he chooses. Also, he has a strong support group, possible job opportunities and a place to live if approved for parole.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of Mr. Kelsey for parole. Please take into account his accomplishments since incarceration, his character, and his efforts to improve himself.

Sincerely,



Mr. Gary R. Minion

September 25, 2019

Honorable Member of the SCDC Parole Board

Re: Parole Hearing for Joseph Kelsey

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of recommendation for parole for Joe. I am a Jumpstart volunteer mentor at Broad River Correctional Institute and have been for over 6 years. My background is 40 years in the commercial real estate business. I started my own firm until retirement in 2012. During that time I was able to evaluate people on a daily basis and had up to 25 people in the company. So my endorsement for Joe comes from many years of personal experience. As a fellow Christian brother of Joe, I am convinced of his heart's condition. Joe entered the Jumpstart program in May of 2016 and successfully completed the requirements for graduation in July of 2017. He began Leadership Training in October of 2017, and became a Table Leader in March of this year.

Joe has been one of the outstanding leaders in the program from the very beginning. He has taken the initiative to embrace the program and its values and given guidance to many in the program in addition to other inmates at BRCI.

On many occasions he has expressed to me the great remorse he has for his actions as a teenager and compassion for the family of his victim. He has made efforts to express this with the victim's family. Joe is a very reliable and trustworthy person. Today he is not the person that was placed in confinement 25 years ago. He has certainly rehabilitated himself.

Joe has an excellent plan for parole. He is planning to get married upon release, has a home waiting for him and steady employment available. He will be successful. Thank you for thoughtful consideration of parole for Joe.

Sincerely,



Mac Ogburn

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Parole Board:

South Carolina Parole Board  
c/o Jon Ozmint  
P.O. Box 6814  
Columbia, SC 29260

My name is Thomas Speigal. I am a teacher in Naples Florida and an elder at "Naples Christian Church". I was close friends with Joe in high school and am proud to say that we are still friends to this day. He was also my neighbor and the co-captain on the Lakeside High School Wrestling Team.

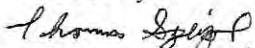
I visited Mr. Kelsey last summer and once I was able to sit face to face with him I could see the light of Christ in him. He has a sense of peace that I am striving to achieve. I have worked with people from a wide range of situations and backgrounds while serving at my church and have developed the ability to sense if someone is just using my faith to get something they want from me. I am absolutely certain that Joe's faith is genuine and I cannot wait to see how he uses his past to glorify our Lord and Savior. Joe and I also have a phone call scheduled every Sunday at 6 PM. We discuss what we experienced during the previous week, the scripture that we are studying, and prayer requests. I plan on being a constant contact for him for the rest of his life (no matter where that takes place).

I am very familiar with this case. I was friends with Melanie. I was at the party the night that Melanie died and I was interviewed frequently by the FBI. I took Melanie's mother to high school parties so she could look and see if her daughter was there. I know that this was a horrific crime and I also know that it would have never taken place if Joe was mature enough to avoid the situation all together (I believe he was 16 when this happened). He was always such a brilliant person and I believe that a lack of supervision, maturity, a negative social group, and drugs/alcohol greatly influenced this crime. These are not excuses, Joe is guilty of this crime, and he has accepted full responsibility for his role in the matter.

Joe has been furthering his education, working with people in Hospice and the Suicide Prevention Program in the institution he currently resides, and is developing a relationship with God that truly inspires me. I am so thankful that he has turned to God instead of the many other evil things that are out there.

Joe was such a kind, intelligent, and gifted person that I could not believe he would be involved in anything of this nature. He made the most horrible mistake a human can make and will never forgive himself for it. Joe has spent 25 years of his life in prison and is doing whatever he can to prepare himself to be a positive member of society upon his release. I believe that Mr. Kelsey has found God; I believe that he is sorry, and I believe that he would be a valued member of any community.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Speigal



# CIU | PRISON INITIATIVE

October 23, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of Mr. Joseph Kelsey (SCDC #217218) who is a graduate of our Columbia International University Prison Initiative Program. The Prison Initiative is a 24 month, 60 credit Associate of Arts degree program within the South Carolina Department of Corrections. This program is designed for inmates with significant sentences who have demonstrated a potential to make a difference within the walls of SCDC. The selection process is rigorous and competitive and only 15 inmates are chosen to participate each year. Students focus all of their time and energy on academics during their two years in the program and graduate with an accredited Associate of Arts Degree upon completion.

The general expectation by SCDC and the University is that each graduate of the CIU Prison Initiative program would be assigned to a SCDC facility (ideally in groups of twos and threes) with the goal of serving as model prisoners as well as peace-makers within the general population. Many of our graduates go on to teach classes, serve hospice patients, and lead Character-Based Dorm units. As with other faith-based programs of similar design, such as the program at Angola Prison in Louisiana, the impact of the critical thinking skills, peace-making skills, and religious faith linked to sound education should provide a positive impact on the prison population.

Mr. Kelsey was selected to participate in this program in Kirkland's Cohort #7 and graduated in December 2015. Following graduation, he volunteered to serve in the Crisis Stabilization Unit at Broad River Correctional Institution in order to care for and encourage fellow inmates during a vulnerable season in their lives. While serving these men he has also relentlessly continued his education and is on track to graduate this December 13, 2019 with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Columbia International University. Not only will he graduate with a 4.0 grade point average but he will also graduate with honors as Summa Cum Laude.

We are incredibly proud of Mr. Kelsey's accomplishments. He is one of only five Prison Initiative graduates who has gone on to complete their bachelor's degree after completing our program and look forward to celebrating this milestone with him in a few weeks.

The University does not make any formal recommendation for any of our graduates because of our potential lack of objectivity and/or conflict of interest due to our

A Ministry of Columbia International University  
7435 Monticello Road | Columbia, SC 29203 | (803) 807-5020 | [prisoninitiative@ciu.edu](mailto:prisoninitiative@ciu.edu)

[ciu.edu/pi](http://ciu.edu/pi)

relationship with the individual as volunteers within the SCDC system but the university believes it is appropriate to provide you with standardized data regarding participants within our program which you may or may not wish to review based on the request of our graduate. Because of federal regulations regarding access to student information, the University has gained written permission from Mr. Kelsey to release this information for your review:

Academic Information based on his completion of the two year A.A. program in 2015:

**Number of Semester Credits Completed: 68**

**Cumulative Grade Point Average for the above Credits: 4.0 (on a 4.0 scale)**

**Attendance Pattern: on time, prepared, consistent & faithful attendance (100%)**

**General Demeanor as a Student: humble, respectful, persistent, seeks to learn**

**Attitude towards Learning: teachable, engaged, submitted quality work, motivated, ambitious**

**Interaction within the Cohort: stable, respected, gentle**

**Disciplinary Issues: none**

I hope this information may be beneficial to you as you review Mr. Kelsey's case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Beyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Bryan Beyer, Ph.D.

Dean of College of Arts and Sciences

COPY: Andre T. Melvin, M.Div., CIU Prison Initiative Director

August 7, 2015

Honorable Members of the Parole Board  
c/o Mr. Jon Ozmint  
P. O. Box 6814  
Columbia, SC 29260

Letter on behalf of Joseph Kelsey, Kirkland CI

Dear members of the Parole Board,

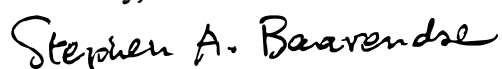
Joseph Kelsey, resident of Kirkland Correctional Institute, has asked me to write a letter on behalf of his request for parole. It is a joyful privilege for me to do so.

I am a professor in CIU's Prison Initiative degree program who was privileged to teach Joseph and his fellow students in Cohort 7 their introduction to English literature course in July 2014. I will always look back on this course as the highlight of my 15 years of teaching at CIU. I had never before taught this semester-long course in a three-week intensive span, and I knew that the reading and writing assignments would challenge the students. The entire cohort responded wonderfully to the academic challenge, and in all of this, I noted the leadership Joseph took in his humble and quiet way among his peers. He was consistently respectful, cheerful, and hard-working in class, and from his first writing sample I could see his considerable academic gifts. It was clear to me too that his fellow prisoners esteemed him. He earned the highest percentage grade in the course, but you would never know it from his quiet, humble demeanor. Though he excelled in academic ability, he also stood out to me for his eagerness to learn. He was the only student from his group to send me a personal card expressing his appreciation for the course—an unusually thoughtful gesture I will always remember with gratitude.

Obviously, I have not had the privilege of knowing Joseph during the years of his incarceration to compare his maturity now with his character when he first entered prison. My assumption would be that there has been a profound change in him for the better. The person before me now impresses me with strength, quietness, and maturity—evidences that I take as the fruit of a true and lasting spiritual renewal. I have returned several times in the past year to speak in chapel, and have found Joseph's posture always to be quiet, humble, and teachable. There is an evident consistency and maturity about his person—a lack of showiness, a quiet stability, a spirit of rest.

I believe Joseph will make a very positive contribution to society. He seems to me to be a fine example of rehabilitation in prison, and when I think of him, I can't help but think of his biblical namesake, who during his time in prison lived with integrity and served his fellow prisoners and supervisors well (see Genesis 39:21-23). Joseph Kelsey seems to me such a man. Based on the maturity I have seen in his person during the (admittedly limited) time I have had to observe him in class and chapel settings, I would add my recommendation to his parole request.

Sincerely,



Stephen Baarendse  
Associate Professor, English and Humanities  
Columbia International University  
(803) 807-5421  
sbaarendse@ciu.edu



# CHRISTIAN FAMILY CHAPEL

September 22, 2015

Dear Members of the Parole Board,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of Joseph Kelsey. I have had the privilege over the past two years to get to know Joseph through the Columbia International University Prison Initiative Program.

As a professor in this initiative since its inception in January 2007, I have seen how the program gives hope and changes the lives of the student-inmates. Many of the students that come to us have had little educational or life success. Through a rigorous program of academic study, our students are challenged to grow spiritually, intellectually and emotionally.

Those of us who are blessed to teach in the program have the opportunity to mold and shape hungry students into disciples of Jesus Christ. We challenge these students to not simply get good grades, but to grow into the people that God wants them to be – men and women who are wholly committed to God.

Since I've taught at Kirkland from the beginning of the program, I've had the opportunity to teach every male student who has come through the program. If my math is correct, that is about 120 students. While each of those students are memorable to me even after 8 ½ years, a few stand out for various reasons. Joseph Kelsey is one of those students.


Joseph has one of the brightest minds that I've encountered in my 20 plus years of teaching. His intellectual capacity is so great, it was no easy task to provide adequate challenge in his course work. However, as intelligent as Joseph is, he has never gloated in his intelligence but has always responded with humility and a genuine hunger to learn more. While he has the capacity to teach the courses I led, Joseph always kept the posture of a humble learner. He has been a professor's dream student.

Joseph is one of the most gentle and unassuming people I've ever met. I credit that to a deep and abiding faith in Jesus and the time he has spent in prison, daily dealing with the consequences of his crime. If the purpose of prison is to provoke in someone a sorrow for their crime and to see them rehabilitated for the purpose of becoming a productive member of society, then I think that goal has been achieved in Joseph's life.

I don't take lightly the crime Joseph has committed, but I do not believe who he was as a minor is the man I have known over the past two years. I have great confidence that if given the chance to reenter society and become an asset to the community, the Parole Board will have no regrets about their decision to accept Joseph as a candidate for parole.

I would gladly welcome Joseph Kelsey back into society and look forward to seeing how he continues to grow as a Christ follower, whether in the custody of SCDC or as a free man outside. I regret that I am unable to give live testimony to you, but thank you for your thoughtful consideration as I speak on behalf of Joseph. I pray that you will have great wisdom as you make hard decisions that affect inmates, their families, the families of the victims and society at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and the last name "Thompson" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Thompson  
Pastor to College and Senior High Students  
Christian Family Chapel / Jacksonville, Florida

October 8, 2019

Dear Parole Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of Joseph Kelsey (#217218). I work on staff at Columbia International University. Our institution has provided a letter stating Mr. Kelsey's involvement in our program but has a policy not to recommend alumni based on its unbiased position. I am writing, however, from my own experience which should in no way be reflected as a recommendation from CIU itself.

This coming January will mark six years since I initially met Joe. I had the privilege of getting to know him during his two years as a CIU student and have seen him and interacted with him on numerous occasions since his graduation in December of 2015. He has always been respectful, kind, and gracious. I've had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of inmates over the last six and a half years and Joe is by far one of the gentlest and most determined men I've ever met.

Joe has spent the last three and a half years working in the Crisis Stabilization Unit at Broad River Correctional Institution –sitting with and listening to men who are in a severe life crisis and are often a threat to themselves. The responsibility is not an easy one and yet he has served these men with humility and faithfulness; offering them hope in the middle of their despair.

If given the opportunity, I believe Mr. Joseph Kelsey would be an excellent candidate for parole based on the maturity and character I've seen consistently displayed in his life over the years that I have known him. He has refused to waste his years of incarceration and has, instead, chosen to serve others and to continue to challenge himself to grow through on-going education. He has a strong support system, a solid education, and a clear vision for life. Mr. Kelsey is the kind of man I would want for a neighbor and believe our community would be better for having him as part of it.

Sincerely,



Grace Dye

Assistant Director

CIU Prison Initiative

TO: Honorable Members of the Parole Board  
From: C. Austin Edmundson, M.A., LPC-A, NCC, CCMHC  
Subject: Joseph Kelsey (217218)  
Date: 4/26/2019

Since June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I have worked as a Qualified Mental Health Professional for the South Carolina Department of Correction's Crisis Stabilization Unit. The South Carolina Department of Correction's Crisis Stabilization Unit at Broad River Correctional Institute's Greenwood Unit has the ability to accommodate up to 32 male crisis inmates who can be admitted from any state level correctional institution. The unit is equipped with nursing, mental health technicians, and security staff 24/7. The unit also accommodates 32 specially selected inmate watchers who have obtained associates degrees from Columbia International University. These watchers are partly responsible for observing crisis inmates with the directive of providing emotional support, modeling positive behaviors, and alerting relevant staff if medical care is needed or if behavioral concerns are noted. It is in this role, of inmate watcher, that I have had the opportunity to know and work with Mr. Kelsey.

I have witnessed first-hand the compassion and dedication that Mr. Kelsey has towards his fellow inmates. He is dependable, honest, courteous, and responsible. I know Mr. Kelsey to work well under pressure and is known to go above and beyond his assigned duties to volunteer for tasks that greatly improve the efficiency of our program and contributes to the success of our mission. He is well organized, efficient, easily develops rapport with the crisis inmates as well as staff.

Aside from working with the crisis inmates, I insist on an open door policy with the inmate watchers. In conversations with Mr. Kelsey, he has discussed his crime in detail. He expressed regret and remorse when speaking about his crime. He accepts responsibility for all the pain that he caused and has worked to understand and change the attitudes that led to his behaviors. He has shown growth from his time in prison. It is my opinion that Mr. Kelsey, should he be given the opportunity to reintegrate back into society, would be successful and has all of the characteristics to be a positive and impactful member of the community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CAE, LPC-A'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

C. Austin Edmundson, M.A., LPC-A, NCC, CCMHC

October 15, 2019

To the Honorable Members of the Parole Board,

In January of 2019, after working 5 years at Broad River Correctional Institution in main medical, I decided to take on the challenge of responsibilities and duties as the head nurse at Broad River's Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). It was quite overwhelming and there was so much to learn. One of the first CSU workers to extend his helping hand was Mr. Joseph Kelsey. I observed immediately that Mr. Kelsey was a respectful and caring person, he helped show me what CSU was all about. I shortly learned that Mr. Kelsey wore many hats and that along with all of his responsibilities, he always maintained a positive and respectful attitude.

When there was a time that I needed help, Mr. Kelsey was always one of the first inmates to step up and offer his knowledge and assistance. One of the many hats Mr. Kelsey voluntarily took on, was keeping track of all of our medical inventory. He maintained a very organized and accurate system to ensure our medical inventory remained up to date and fully stocked. As a new nurse to CSU, he helped me find items that I couldn't and always let me know when there were supplies that needed to be ordered.

I also observed his interactions with our patients that were be monitored on a crisis status. No matter the patient or circumstance, he always displayed a reassuring, comforting and therapeutic demeanor with each patient. His peer CSU workers have always described him as dependable and considerate. My staff, co-workers and superiors have consistently made positive remarks regarding his conduct and work ethic. I observed for myself how Mr. Kelsey continuously conducted himself as a role model for all inmates and exceeded many expectations regardless of the adversities he had to face.

As I continue to work with Mr. Kelsey daily, I have no doubt that when given the opportunity to rejoin society, he will continue to be successful and utilize the skills and trades that he has acquired during his incarceration. I believe that he will make a positive impact in our society and share his knowledge and compassion to better our communities.

My observation and testimony of Mr. Kelsey is written with honesty and from my own experience so that members of the parole board can have an accurate understanding of the type of man Mr. Kelsey has become and will continue to be regardless of the decision of the parole board.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

*Courtney Williams, RN*

Courtney Olds-Williams, RN, Interim Head Nurse

Broad River Correctional Institution, Crisis Stabilization Unit

(803)896-2884

**CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT  
MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Whom it may concern  
**FROM:** Paul Dennis, Manager - Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)  
**SUBJECT:** I/M Joseph Kelsey 217218  
**Date:** November 18, 2017

Inmate Kelsey has been a volunteer worker here in the CSU since its creation in March of 2016. The CSU is a unique program in which mental health, medical, security and administrative personnel, team with trained inmate volunteers to provide treatment to inmates suffering mental health crises.

Over the past nineteen months, I/M Kelsey's main role as a Para-Professional Counselor has afforded him the opportunity to spend 850 plus hours, in one-on-one situations, with over 150 troubled inmates, helping to safeguard, counsel, and encourage them. In doing so, he has displayed exemplary patience, understanding and compassion.

Additionally, all inmate volunteers dutifully perform custodial tasks. Beyond these, I/M Kelsey serves in an office clerk capacity, spending several hours a week preparing internal reports and filing. He also volunteers to operate a client library, issuing donated books and Bibles to inmates during their stay in the CSU.

On and off the job, I/M Kelsey is respectful and dependable. These, and the other qualities he exhibits, make me confident that he will be successful in whatever the future holds.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

To: Member of the Parole Board  
From: Ann-Marie Elwood, RN  
Subject: Joseph Kelsey (217218)  
Date: 10/05/2019

Beginning June 2018, I have worked as a Registered Nurse in the Crisis Stabilization Unit at Broad River Correctional Institution. I have witnessed Mr. Kelsey go above and beyond executing his assigned duties and helping inmates through their crisis situations. I have witnessed first-hand Mr. Kelsey give up his personal time to assist and pray with crisis inmates in their time of great need.

Mr. Kelsey volunteers for countless tasks to assist in improving the program. He has taken on the responsibility of keeping up with medical inventory. He does an exceptional job of organizing the medical equipment, ordering supplies monthly, and maintains our inventory quarterly.

I have also been afforded the opportunity to meet his supportive family on his frequent visits. I have been able to discuss Mr. Kelsey's crime with him many times. He expresses deep regret and remorse for his actions. He acknowledges the pain he has caused by the choices he made at the delicate age of 16. In my opinion, Mr. Kelsey should be given the chance to re-enter society and be a productive member of the community.

  
Ann-Marie Elwood, RN

# Columbia International University

*The Trustees of  
Columbia International University  
upon the recommendation of the Faculty have conferred upon*

**Joseph Glenn Kelsey**

*the degree of*

**Bachelor of Science**

*Summa Cum Laude*

*with all honors, rights and privileges appertaining thereto.*

*Given at Columbia in the State of South Carolina, in this  
month of December, in the year of our Lord  
two thousand nineteen.*

  
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees*



  
*President*

**Undergraduate (U)**

Course Number	Title	Gra	Rpt	Att	Ernd	HGpa	Q.Pts	GPA
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Previous : Transfer

**Organization : Ohio University**

ENG150	Developmental Writing	A	2.66	2.66	0.00	0.00		
BCFN128	Intro to Nutrition	A	2.66	2.66	0.00	0.00		
PHYS2001	Intro to Physics	A-	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00		
PSC111	The Metric System	A	0.66	0.66	0.00	0.00		
PSY2110	Statistics for Behavioral Sciences	A	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00		

**Organization : Trident Technical College**

MAT101	Beg Algebra	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>16.98</b>	<b>16.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>16.98</b>	<b>16.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	

**2013-2014 Academic Year : Spring**

BIB-1120	New Testament Survey	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
ENG-1000	Basic Writing Skills	A	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00		
ENG-1110	Written Composition	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
MSD-1120	Evangelism & Discipleship	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
SOC-1112	CIU 101	A	2.00	2.00	2.00	8.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>28.98</b>	<b>28.98</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	

**2013-2014 Academic Year : Summer 1**

BIB-1114	OT Survey: Torah and History	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
COM-2110	Public Speaking	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
ENG-1111	Research & Literature	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
THE-2110	Survey of Bible Doctrine	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>40.98</b>	<b>40.98</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>96.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	

**2014-2015 Academic Year : Fall**

BIB-1115	OT Survey: Poetry and Prophecy	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
BIB-2222	Biblical Discipleship I	A	2.00	2.00	2.00	8.00		
ICS-1210	Discovering the Mission of God	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		

**Undergraduate (U)**

Course Number	Title	Gra	Rpt	Att	Ernd	HGpa	Q.Pts	GPA
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**2014-2015 Academic Year : Fall**

MSD-2230	Communicating God's Word	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>11.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>51.98</b>	<b>51.98</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>140.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	

**2014-2015 Academic Year : Spring**

BIB-3420	Principles of Bible Interpretation	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
HIS-1210	Hist Persp on Culture & Civil 1	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
MAT-2310	Math Concepts & Quant Reasoning	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
THE-4140	Ethics and Sanctification	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>63.98</b>	<b>63.98</b>	<b>47.00</b>	<b>188.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	

**2014-2015 Academic Year : Summer 1**

BIB-3616	Romans	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
HIS-1211	Historical Perspectives on Cultures & Civilizations 2	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
PHI-2110	Introduction to Philosophy	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
PSY-2110	General Psychology	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>75.98</b>	<b>75.98</b>	<b>59.00</b>	<b>236.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	

**2015-2016 Academic Year : Fall**

BIB-3421	Princip of Bib Exeg & Exposition	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
BIB-4310	Progress of Redemption	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
ENG-2135	Creative Nonfiction	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>9.00</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>36.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>84.98</b>	<b>84.98</b>	<b>68.00</b>	<b>272.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	

**2017-2018 Academic Year : Spring**

<b>Organization : Global University</b>								
BIB4133	Wisdom Literature	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>Term Totals :</b>			<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0000</b>	
<b>Career Totals :</b>			<b>87.98</b>	<b>87.98</b>	<b>68.00</b>	<b>272.00</b>	<b>4.0000</b>	



**ISSUED TO STUDENT**

**Undergraduate (U)**

Course Number Title Gra Rpt Att Ernd HGpa Q.Pts GPA

**2018-2019 Academic Year : Transfer Work**

Course Number	Title	Gra	Rpt	Att	Ernd	HGpa	Q.Pts	GPA
<b>Organization : Ashworth College</b>								
C05	Business Communication	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C06	Business Ethics	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C15	Principles of Management	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
CO1	Introduction to Business	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
MO1	Human Resource Management	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Organization : Hobe Sound Bible College</b>								
BS2520	Business Economics	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
BSC2314	Environmental Science	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
MA4310	Principles of Administration	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
MA4333	Church Business	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
MO1101	Music Appreciation	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SS3410	Conflict Management	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SS4540	Cultural Anthropology	A	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Term Totals : 36.00 36.00 0.00 0.00 0.0000  
 Career Totals : 123.98 123.98 68.00 272.00 4.0000  
 Division Career Totals : 123.98 123.98 68.00 272.00 4.0000

**Degree Information :**

- (1) 'Associate of Arts' Date Conferred : 12/11/2015  
College: College of Arts and Sciences
- (2) 'Bachelor of Science' Date Conferred : 12/13/2019  
College: College of Arts and Sciences  
Major(s): General Studies  
Honor(s): Summa Cum Laude

A TRUE COPY OF THE RECORD ON FILE AT  
COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

*Jennifer L. Booth*  
Office of the Registrar  
Jennifer L. Booth

01/06/2020



# Columbia International University

*The Trustees of  
Columbia International University  
upon the recommendation of the Faculty have conferred upon*

**Joseph Glenn Kelsey**

*the degree of*  
**Associate of Arts**

*with all honors, rights and privileges appertaining thereto.  
Given at Columbia in the State of South Carolina, in this  
month of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.*

*J. Russell Martin, Jr.*  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Duplicate Copy



*William H. Jor*  
President

E0434258-418126-15

WorkKeys®  
Summary

Report for: JOSEPH KELSEY  
Test Site: SCDOC

Test Date: 11/2012  
Report Date: 11/09/2012

**Applied Mathematics** (Levels range from 3 to 7) Level: 7      Scale Score: 90

This person scored at Level 7. Individuals with Level 7 skills can set up and solve complex problems requiring extensive calculations and several conversions between systems of measurement. They can calculate percent change, set up and manipulate complex ratios and proportions, determine multiple areas or volumes of two- and three-dimensional shapes, determine the best economic value of several alternatives, and locate errors in multiple-step calculations. This is the highest level measured by this test.

**Locating Information** (Levels range from 3 to 6) Level: 5      Scale Score: 81

This person scored at Level 5. Individuals with Level 5 skills can correctly use complicated workplace graphics, such as complex forms and tables, multivariable graphs, and detailed diagrams, to compare trends and main points, and/or summarize information within a single graphic or across more than one graphic representing related information.

**Reading for Information** (Levels range from 3 to 7) Level: 7      Scale Score: 87

This person scored at Level 7. Individuals with Level 7 skills can apply concepts from densely detailed selections, such as excerpts from complex regulatory and legal documents, to new situations. They can understand difficult concepts and complex procedures containing jargon and technical terms whose definitions must be derived from context. Level 7 is the highest level measured by this test.

We hope you find this WorkKeys information useful. If you have questions about these scores or about the WorkKeys system or skills, please contact WorkKeys (96), ACT, 2201 North Dodge Street, P. O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243.

**LS=Level Scores:**

Use for selection, promotion, or other individual high-stakes purposes. For more information on Level Scores go to: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/forms/interp.pdf>

**SS=Scale Scores:**

Use to show growth over time and provide group comparisons in outcome measurement. Not intended for selection and hiring. Scale Score range: 50-90. For more information on Scale Scores go to: [http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/scale\\_score\\_interp\\_guide.pdf](http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/scale_score_interp_guide.pdf)

E0434258-418126-15

WorkKeys®  
Summary

Report for: JOSEPH KELSEY

Test Date: 11/2012

Test Site: SCDOC

Report Date: 11/09/2012

**Applied Mathematics** (Levels range from 3 to 7) Level: 7 Scale Score: 90

This person scored at Level 7. Individuals with Level 7 skills can set up and solve complex problems requiring extensive calculations and several conversions between systems of measurement. They can calculate percent change, set up and manipulate complex ratios and proportions, determine multiple areas or volumes of two- and three-dimensional shapes, determine the best economic value of several alternatives, and locate errors in multiple-step calculations. This is the highest level measured by this test.

**Locating Information** (Levels range from 3 to 6) Level: 5 Scale Score: 81

This person scored at Level 5. Individuals with Level 5 skills can correctly use complicated workplace graphics, such as complex forms and tables, multivariable graphs, and detailed diagrams, to compare trends and main points, and/or summarize information within a single graphic or across more than one graphic representing related information.

**Reading for Information** (Levels range from 3 to 7) Level: 7 Scale Score: 87

This person scored at Level 7. Individuals with Level 7 skills can apply concepts from densely detailed selections, such as excerpts from complex regulatory and legal documents, to new situations. They can understand difficult concepts and complex procedures containing jargon and technical terms whose definitions must be derived from context. Level 7 is the highest level measured by this test.

We hope you find this WorkKeys information useful. If you have questions about these scores or about the WorkKeys system or skills, please contact WorkKeys (96), ACT, 2201 North Dodge Street, P. O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243.

**LS=Level Scores:**

Use for selection, promotion, or other individual high-stakes purposes. For more information on Level Scores go to: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/forms/interp.pdf>

**SS=Scale Scores:**

Use to show growth over time and provide group comparisons in outcome measurement. Not intended for selection and hiring. Scale Score range: 50-90. For more information on Scale Scores go to: [http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/scale\\_score\\_interp\\_guide.pdf](http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/scale_score_interp_guide.pdf)



Certificate: 36456

Issue date: 11/16/12

WorkKeys® is a national workforce development system that permits a direct comparison of the skills and levels of skills needed to perform a job with the skills and levels of skills an individual currently possesses. This certificate reports an individual's Applied Mathematics, Locating Information and Reading for Information skill levels in relation to the level of these skills needed in 90 percent of the jobs and occupations contained in ACT's WorkKeys® database. The ACT job profile database now contains thousands of job profiles. This certificate is only awarded to individuals who meet the performance criteria for at least a Level 5 across all three skill areas. Individuals who perform at a Level 5 have the following skill proficiencies:

APPLIED MATHEMATICS  
Skill Level 5

LOCATING INFORMATION  
Skill Level 5

READING FOR INFORMATION  
Skill Level 5



WorkKeys

©2007 by ACT, Inc. All rights reserved. Copying or reproducing this certificate is prohibited. WorkKeys® is a comprehensive system from ACT designed to help individuals develop better career skills. Employers can verify valid certificate numbers at [www.workkeys.com](http://www.workkeys.com). For more information, please visit [www.workreadysc.com](http://www.workreadysc.com).

# South Carolina High School Diploma



*The State Board of Education, on the recommendation of state officials,  
and the administrators and faculty of*

## Summerville High School

*awards this diploma to*

**Joseph G. Kelsey**

*who has completed a minimum of twenty units of credit and has met the  
exit examination standards.*

*Given at Summerville, South Carolina, this ninth day of June, 1998.*

*David M. Beasley*

*Governor*

*Charles F. Jolley*

*Superintendent*

*James S. Garbrough*

*Principal*

*J. Alex Hunter*

*Chair, State Board of Education*

*Barbara S. Nielsen*

*State Superintendent of Education*

**Official Report of Test Results  
Tests of General Educational Development  
The General Educational Development Testing Service  
Of the American Council on Education**

**Examinee:** JOSEPH G KELSEY

4460 BROAD RIVER ROAD DOC  
COLUMBIA, SC 29210

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 07/20/1977

**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:** 450775647

**Test Format:** AI

**Date Scored:** 3/1/1995

**Date Reported:** 5/15/2013

**Tested at:** Kirkland-DOC - SC Dept. of Ed.  
300043001500  
1429 Senate St. Suite 402  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Report to:** State Department of Education  
402 Rutledge Building  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29

	Test Date	Form	Standard Score	Percentile Rank
<b>Test 1: Writing Skills</b>	03/01/1995	AI	60	84
<b>Test 2: Social Studies</b>	03/01/1995	AI	64	92
<b>Test 3: Science</b>	03/01/1995	AI	74	99
<b>Test 4: Interpreting Literature and the Arts</b>	03/01/1995	AI	67	95
<b>Test 5: Mathematics</b>	03/01/1995	AI	80	99

The scores on this report are the highest scores achieved by the examinee and not necessarily the most recent. If the latest scores are lower than the scores previously achieved, the retest scores are not reported.

**Total Standard Score:** 345

**Avg. Standard Score:** 69

**Passed**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*David B. Stout, Jr.*

For additional transcripts contact:

GED Testing Office  
Suite 402  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-734-8347 Fax: 803-734-8336

## WHAT DO THE GED TESTS MEASURE?

The Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests) consist of five tests which measure achievement in subject areas associated with a high school program of study. The five tests, and their relative content emphases, are:

1. **LANGUAGE ARTS, READING:** Literary Texts (poetry; drama; prose fiction before 1920, between 1920-1960, and after 1960) (75%); Nonfiction Prose (25%).
2. **LANGUAGE ARTS, WRITING *Part I:*** Organization (15%); Sentence Structure (30%); Usage (30%); Mechanics (25%); ***Part II:*** Essay (45-minute direct writing exercise).
3. **MATHEMATICS:** Number Operations and Number Sense (25%); Measurement and Geometry (25%); Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability (25%); Algebra, Functions, and Patterns (25%).
4. **SCIENCE:** Life Science (45%); Earth and Space Science (20%); Physical Science (Chemistry and Physics) (35%).
5. **SOCIAL STUDIES:** National History (25%); World History (15%); Economics (20%); Civics and Government (25%); Geography (15%).

The tests are taken by adults who have not graduated from high school and who wish to demonstrate a level of educational achievement sufficient to earn a high school credential. The tests are administered regularly at more than 3,200 Official GED Testing Centers throughout the US and Canada.

## INTERPRETING GED TEST RESULTS

Performance on the GED Tests is reported in two ways:

### (1) *Standard scores & percentile ranks*

Results on each of the five GED Tests are given as "standard scores" ranging from 200 to 800 and "percentile ranks" ranging from 1 to 99; higher scores result from correctly answering more test questions. Both scores compare the candidate's results to those for a recent representative national sample of high school seniors. The percentile rank shows the percentage of the graduating seniors who earned scores at or below those of the candidate. For example, if a candidate's percentile rank is 30, the candidate's score is equal to that earned by 30 of 100 traditional high school graduates.

### (2) *Pass or Non-Pass*

The passing standard for the 2002 Series GED Tests is a minimum of 410 on each of the five tests in the battery AND an average (mean) score of 450 on the total battery. This 410 and 450 passing standard is the minimum passing standard set by GEDTS. Each state, province and territory may set a passing standard that exceeds the GEDTS standard score requirement for earning a high school credential, but may not go below the GEDTS score requirement. Adults who pass the GED Tests earn scores that meet or exceed the performance of that demonstrated by 4 of every 10 traditional high school graduates. If the candidate's scores meet or exceed the required passing score, the "PASS" box is marked. If not, the "NON-PASS" box is marked. If the candidate has not taken all five tests, "INCOMPLETE" is marked. Candidates who did not pass can retake the GED Tests in order to raise their scores. The local GED Examiner can provide information about retesting. Generally, further study is recommended in those test subjects in which a candidate earns a standard score of 350 or below. These candidates are encouraged to contact local adult education programs and enroll in instructional classes.

A detailed description of the tests and the passing standard scale is given in the GEDTS publication, the *Administrator's Guide to the Official GED Practice Tests*, available from Steck-Vaughn Company, Customer Service, P.O. Box 690789, Orlando, Florida, 32819-0789, 1-800-531-5015.

**IF YOU PHOTOCOPY THIS DOCUMENT, THE WORD "COPY" WILL APPEAR, PRODUCING AN UNAUTHORIZED DOCUMENT. PLEASE CONTACT THE TEST CENTER LISTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE TO REQUEST AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.**



**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

*Certificate of Award*

**To**

***JOSEPH GLENN KELSEY***

**SUPERIOR GED EXAMINATION SCORES**

For Achieving a Score of 345

*Mick Fawcett*

State Superintendant of Education

MARCH 1, 1995

Date

*David B. Stout Jr.*

GED Administrator

**GED Testing Office ■ 1429 Senate Street ■ Columbia, SC 29201**



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais  
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear GED Graduate:

Congratulations on earning a score on your GED exam that places you in the top 5 percent of South Carolina's GED graduates. This is a significant accomplishment that undoubtedly required dedication and hard work. We salute you for your achievement and want you to know that we are proud of you. Enclosed is a certificate, which is suitable for framing, commending you for your accomplishment.

A GED diploma opens doors for many graduates—to new jobs, to post-secondary educational opportunities, to increased self-esteem. We hope that you are already reaping the rewards of your accomplishment, and we wish you continued success in pursuing your educational and career goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mick Zais".

Mick Zais  
State Superintendent of Education

MZ/ds  
Enclosure

# Addiction Professionals of South Carolina

Through its Certification Commission hereby affirms that

## Joseph Kelsey

Has successfully met all requirements and professional standards to be recognized as a

### Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS)

11372

Certification Number

11/3/2023

Valid Through

*Nicole Deems*

Nicole Deems  
President

*Kimbley Smith*

Kimbley Smith  
Certification Committee Chair



# Certificate of Completion

This certificate is awarded to

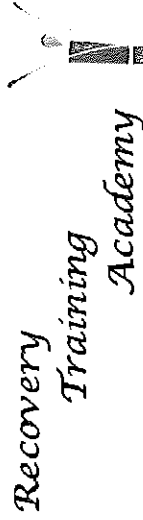
**Joseph Kelsey**

Who on **September 20, 2021** Successfully Completed **46** Hours of

Continuing Education Training in:

**Certified Peer Support Specialist**

*(Including the requisite Medicaid Training)*



*Julie Cole, LMSW, LAC, CPSS*

**Julie Cole, LMSW, LAC, CPSS, CPRS**

*Robert E. Rice, C.A.R.E.S., CPSS, CPRS*

**Robert E. Rice, C.A.R.E.S., CPSS, CPRS**

*Ed Johnson, LPC, MAC, CCS*

**Ed Johnson, LPC, LAC, MAC, CCS**



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

AWARDED TO

*Joseph Kelsey*

WHO ON JUNE 20TH, 2022, COMPLETED  
2 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS IN

## STAGES OF CHANGE



*The Courage Center is recognized as an  
Addiction Professionals of South Carolina  
approved Certified Peer Support Specialist  
training provider.*

FACILITATOR:

*Patricia England, CPSS*

PATRICIA ENGLAND, CPSS  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
THE COURAGE CENTER



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

AWARDED TO

*Joseph Kelsey*

WHO ON JUNE 20TH, 2022, COMPLETED  
2 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS IN

## FAMILIES FACING ADDICTION



*The Courage Center is recognized as an  
Addiction Professionals of South Carolina  
approved Certified Peer Support Specialist  
training provider.*

FACILITATOR:

*Patricia England, CPSS*

PATRICIA ENGLAND, CPSS  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
THE COURAGE CENTER



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

AWARDED TO

*Joseph Kelsey*

WHO ON JUNE 20TH, 2022, COMPLETED  
2 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS IN

## CRISIS INTERVENTION



*The Courage Center is recognized as an  
Addiction Professionals of South Carolina  
approved Certified Peer Support Specialist  
training provider.*

FACILITATOR:

*Patricia England, CPSS*

PATRICIA ENGLAND, CPSS  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
THE COURAGE CENTER

# Certificate of Completion

This certificate is awarded to

Joseph Kelsey – 217218

Who on **August 9, 2023**, Successfully Completed **6** Hours of

Continuing Education Training in:

**Peer Support Ethics**

*Julie Cole, LMSW, LAC, CPSS*

**Julie Cole, LMSW, LAC, CPSS**

*Julie Cole*

COUNSELING, COACHING  
& CONSULTING, LLC

# CERTIFICATE *of* ACHIEVEMENT



THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

---

Joseph Kelsey

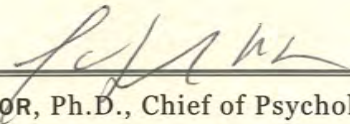
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HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE

 Inmate Companion Program 

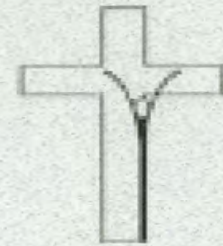
FEBRUARY 4  
2020

---

  
JOHN TAYLOR, Ph.D., Chief of Psychology



# S C Pathways



is proud to recognize

## JOSEPH GLEN KELSEY

for

## VOLUNTEER HOSPICE SERVICE

at KIRKLAND R&E CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, INFIRMARY



SIGNED THIS DATE:

*December 10, 2015*

By:

*Chaplain B. Guerrero*

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

ROMANS 12:12

South Carolina Department of  
Corrections  
Lee Correctional Institution



Certificate of Appreciation

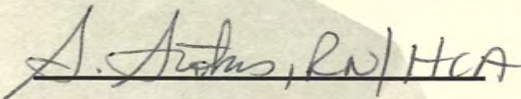
Presented to

**Joseph Kelsey**

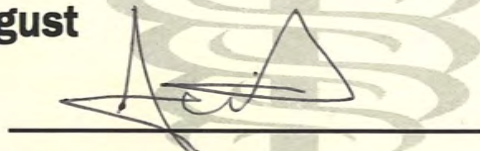
*In Recognition of Outstanding Hospice Volunteer Services*

On the **2<sup>nd</sup>** Day of **August**

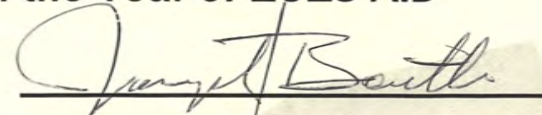
In the Year of **2013** A.D



G. Stokes, RN/HCA



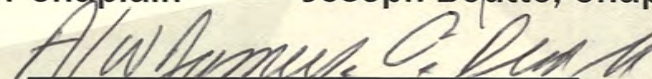
L.L. Cain, Senior Chaplain



Joseph Boutte, Chaplain II



Michael McCall, Warden



James Dean, Assoc. Warden

# Certificate of Completion

*this is to certify that*

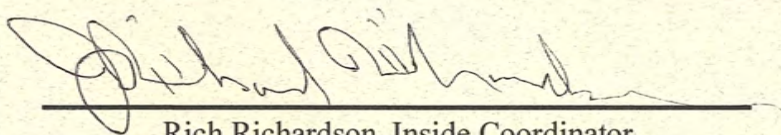
## Joseph Kelsey

*has completed the Jump Start Program  
in the category of **Blue***

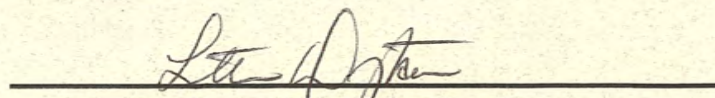
# **JUMPSTART**<sup>®</sup>

*Faith-Based Prison Rehabilitation*

June 12, 2017



Rich Richardson, Inside Coordinator



Steven Hendricks, Chaplain

**Inmate's Name:** Joseph Kelsey **SCDC#** 217218  
**Institution:** BRCI Jumpstart #6  
**Mentor:** Gary Minion  
**Date:** 5/22/17 **Assessment:** **Final Evaluation**

		<u>Score 1-5</u> ( 5 highest)
<b><u>CONNECT: You were formed for God's Family</u></b>		
Member is developing authentic community within the Christian family (interpersonal relationships)		<u>5</u>
Member is more loving, grace giving and forgiving to others than when the class began		<u>5</u>
Member is intentionally cultivating their relationships with Christian friends and spiritual mentors		<u>4</u>
Member is sharing about their attempts to restore or enhance immediate family relationships		<u>4</u>
Member is resolving conflict in a Biblical manner and supporting the leadership of JumpStart		<u>4</u>
	<b><u>Membership Total</u></b>	<b><u>4.4</u></b>

<b><u>GROW: You were created to become like Christ</u></b>		
Member is sharing with JumpStart family about their growing relationship with God through His Word and prayer		<u>4</u>
Member is responding to challenges with peace and faith rather than anxiety and fear		<u>4</u>
Member is avoiding using addictive behaviors (food, television, busyness, cigarettes etc.) to meet their personal needs		<u>5</u>
Member has a relationship with someone that encourages spiritual health & and personal growth (spiritual partner)		<u>5</u>
Member is honoring God by tithing to His Work with whatever means they have		<u>5</u>
	<b><u>Maturity Total</u></b>	<b><u>4.6</u></b>

<b><u>SERVE: You were shaped for serving God</u></b>		
Member is expressing their unique God-given design as a way of life (dorm, work assignment, institution)		<u>4</u>
Member is open and praying to be used by God and express their unique S.H.A.P.E. for ministry		<u>4</u>
Member is serving in a regular (once a month or better) ministry in the chapel or institution		<u>5</u>
Member is sharing group ownership by assuming a small responsibility or facilitating a discussion group		<u>4</u>
Member is honoring Christ by respectfully submitting to authority.		<u>4</u>
	<b><u>Ministry Total</u></b>	<b><u>4.2</u></b>

<b><u>SHARE: You were made for a Mission</u></b>		
Member is actively praying for and cultivating relationships with unsaved friends and family		<u>4</u>
Member is inviting seekers (unsaved people) to Christian events or chapel and sharing their spiritual journey with them		<u>4</u>
Member is being a good witness by imitating Christ in their attitudes and behavior.		<u>4</u>
Member is actively using his or her gifts, talents, resources, abilities to serve others for God's glory		<u>3</u>
Member is regularly investing in the spiritual life of another person or group (becoming a disciple maker)		<u>4</u>
	<b><u>Mission Total</u></b>	<b><u>3.8</u></b>

<b><u>WORSHIP: You were planned for God's pleasure</u></b>		
Member is attending chapel (with the local body of Christ) at least once a week		<u>3</u>
Member has a personal plan and process to help them achieve their goals and dreams (spiritual health plan)		<u>4</u>
Member has a growing heart for worship to God through music and praise (personal, group, & chapel)		<u>3</u>
Member is honoring God with their physical and personal health (exercise and nutrition)		<u>4</u>
Member is pleasing God with every dimension of their life by balancing His purposes in their life		<u>5</u>
	<b><u>Magnification Total</u></b>	<b><u>3.8</u></b>

**Total Assessment Score** **20.8**

Well Developed	(21-25)	Blue
Very Good	(16-20)	Green
Getting Going	(11-15)	Yellow
Getting Started	(6-10)	Red
Just Beginning	(1-5)	Red

# Certificate of Appreciation

*this is to certify that*

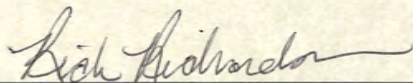
**Joseph Kelsey**

*is recognized for his outstanding leadership in the  
JUMPSTART Program at Broad River Correctional Institution*

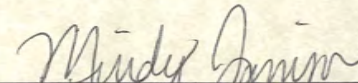
# **JUMPSTART**<sup>®</sup>

*Transforming the lives of prisoners from the inside out*

**February 11, 2020**



Rich Richardson, Inside Coordinator



Mindy Jamison, Midlands Regional Representative

# *Certificate of Achievement*

awarded to:

**JOSEPH KELSEY**

**GED TEACHING ASSISTANT**

*June 29, 1998*

Date

*Jocelyn Supp*

Signed

CERTIFICATE  
OF  
APPRECIATION

*This certifies that*

**JOE KELSEY**

*is awarded this*

*Certificate of Appreciation for*

**HIS SERVICE & LEADERSHIP TO THE LeeCI EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT & HIS ASPIRATION TO HELP HIS FELLOW MAN FURTHER  
HIS EDUCATION**

*Given at* **LeeCI** *AUGUST 28, 19* 97



*Rex M Livine*  
*Kathy Jackson*

*SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
LIEBER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
PRISON INDUSTRIES COMPLEX*

*This*

*Certificate of Appreciation*

*Is hereby presented to*

**Joseph Kelsey**

*In recognition of 12 years of dedicated service to  
Prison Industries*

*April 29, 2010*

*Date*

*Bill Gray*  
*Administrative Coordinator*

**Palmetto Unified School District  
Lee High School  
2011 - 2012  
SAC Members**

<b>Inman, Damian</b>	<b>344143</b>	<b>EFA GED 1</b>
<b>Brown, Isaiah</b>	<b>347241</b>	<b>EFA GED 2</b>
<b>Cherry, Dewayne</b>	<b>340546</b>	<b>EFA GED 2</b>
<b>Davis, David</b>	<b>338555</b>	<b>EFA GED 2</b>
<b>Robinson, Adrian</b>	<b>341512</b>	<b>EFA GED 2</b>
<b>Townsend, Marcus</b>	<b>348435</b>	<b>EFA GED 2</b>
<b>Wells, Levi</b>	<b>346508</b>	<b>EFA GED 2</b>
<b>Sobers, Rashaun</b>	<b>342645</b>	<b>Special Needs</b>
<b>Beasley, Dontavious</b>	<b>340320</b>	<b>Special Needs</b>
<b>Caldwell, Willie</b>	<b>241535</b>	<b>Night School</b>
<b>Pringle, Jessie</b>	<b>210464</b>	<b>Night School</b>
<b>Green, Timothy</b>	<b>324607</b>	<b>ABE Day School</b>
<b>Manning, Reggie</b>	<b>342056</b>	<b>EFA Electricity</b>
<b>Smith, Juan</b>	<b>321800</b>	<b>ABE Carpentry</b>
<b>Hull-Killgore, Jcorey</b>	<b>340853</b>	<b>EFA Carpentry</b>
<b>Lenahan, Casey</b>	<b>142859</b>	<b>Teacher Assistant</b>
<b>Graves, Maurice</b>	<b>208580</b>	<b>Law Library Clerk</b>
<b>Kelsey, Joseph</b>	<b>217218</b>	<b>Library Clerk</b>
<b>Tyson, Charles</b>	<b>113360</b>	<b>Library</b>
<b>Hammond, James</b>	<b>319170</b>	<b>Electricity TA</b>
<b>Alexander, Woody</b>	<b>105175</b>	<b>Carpentry TA</b>
<b>IRC Chairman Staton, Alfonso</b>	<b>241380</b>	
<b>IRC Vice Chairman Johnson, Eric</b>	<b>325695</b>	



**South Carolina Department of Corrections  
Palmetto Unified School District  
Lee High School**

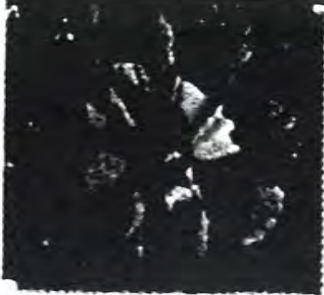
**ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-2013**

**SAC Meeting**

**August 31, 2012**

**12 : 30 P.M.**





## STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### SAC Members :

- Dewayne Cherry (AE 3)
- Dontavius Beasley (AE 2)
- Willie Caldwell (NS 1)
- Jessie Pringle (NS 3)
- Antonio Barnes (SE 1)
- Dameun Sanders (SE 2)
- Antonio Blakely (EFA 1)
- Daquan Seymour (EFA 1)
- Devontay Henson (EFA 2)
- Marcus Townsend (EFA 2)
- Marquis Williams (EFA 3)
- Levi Wells (EFA 3)
- Brett Locklear (Voc. C)
- Shelton Brown (Voc. C)
- Tevon Jackson (Voc. E)
- Rikam Dozier (Voc. E)

### Teacher Assistants :

- Casey Lenahan (Edu. T.A)
- Joseph Kelsey (Edu. T.A)
- Charles Tyson (Edu. T.A)
- Maurice Graves (Law Lib Sr.)
- James Hammond (Voc.E T.A)
- Woody Alexander (Voc. C T.A)

### IRC Chairman :

- Mitchell Pettinato (West)
- Thomas Green (East)

### Education Faculty :

- Aperia Desai (School Leader)
- Kimberly Rabon (Admin. Spec.)
- Shonita Montford (Title I)
- Wanda Miller (Library Spec.)
- Boyd Stokes (Carpentry)
- Frederick Parent (Electricity)
- Lian Latimer (NS)



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LIEBER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION  
LIBRARY SERVICES

This  
**CERTIFICATE**  
of  
**APPRECIATION**  
Is presented to

Joseph Kelsey

for volunteering his time and skills  
over the past five years to design and  
maintain a library database, and train  
a succession of clerks in its use.

By doing so he has assisted the library in its  
mission to enrich the lives of his fellow inmates.

3-25-11

Date

M. Z. C. P. K.

Librarian

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## PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR PAROLE

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**Examinee:** KELSEY, Joseph Glen

**Date of Birth / SCDC#:** July 20, 1977 / #217218

**Dates of Evaluation:** March 21, 2019; April 19, 2019; and June 27, 2019

**Examiner:** Susan C. Knight, Ph.D., ABPP

**IDENTIFYING DATA:** Mr. Joseph Glen Kelsey is a 42-year-old, single, Caucasian male, currently incarcerated in the South Carolina Department of Corrections [SCDC] for convictions of Murder, Arson NEC, and Criminal Conspiracy. His convictions originated from McCormick County, with an offense date of July 12, 1994. On September 22, 1995, after a jury trial, he was sentenced to life, with parole eligibility after twenty years. Thus, since his life sentence was imposed, he has been incarcerated for over 24 years. Mr. Kelsey's attorneys, Mr. John Blume, Esq., and Mr. John Ozmint, Esq., requested a forensic psychological evaluation to evaluate Mr. Kelsey in preparation for his parole hearing in November 2019. Pursuant to this request, the examiner assessed his developmental and psychosocial functioning prior to his incarceration; functioning over his incarceration; risk for future violence; and transition needs.

**SUMMARY OPINION:** Based on evaluation data, which includes clinical interviews and psychological testing with Mr. Kelsey; interviews with his parents, siblings, fiancé, fiancé's mother, former marriage and guidance counselors, and SCDC staff; and review of psychosocial, legal and correctional records; and letters of support, the following was found as summarized.

Parole Eligible Offense: At the time of the offense, Mr. Kelsey was 16, having just finished his 11<sup>th</sup> grade school year. He was living without adult supervision, as his family had recently moved out of state. The incident occurred with slightly older male peers, also charged in the incident. Both codefendants have been released. Mr. Kelsey has taken full responsibility for his actions over 25 years ago, with insight, remorse, and empathy for the crime and those affected.

Course of Incarceration: Mr. Kelsey earned his high school diploma in 1995; an Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Columbia International University in 2015; and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science from Ashworth College in December 2019. He has completed many trainings, and programs, including JumpStart. He presently works in the CSU as an inmate companion. He has very few disciplinaries, with only 6 infractions over 24 years.

Violence Risk Assessment: Using an empirically validated risk assessment, Mr. Kelsey's risk of future violence is low. He has had no altercations or violent infractions in prison. He is well past the age of peak violence, and is clinically stable, with no history of substance use disorder, personality pathology or psychopathology. His incarceration reflects diligent and conscientious commitment to academic, vocational and prosocial pursuits. SCDC staff described him as "very dependable;" "has integrity;" "is calm, mild-mannered;" "trustworthy;" and a "model inmate." They expressed no concerns with Mr. Kelsey making parole.

Transition Plan: If paroled, Mr. Kelsey will reside in Augusta, Georgia, with his fiancé, in her home. She is employed as the Dean of Students at Georgia Military College, and he has been offered employment at a logistics company. He has very strong familial ties, who have all pledged their financial, emotional, and social support post-release.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:** The following sources of information were reviewed in forming the opinions found in this report:

**Legal and Psychosocial Records**

1. Academic records from North East Independent School District, Jefferson County Public Schools, and Columbia County School District, dated from August 1989 to June 1994;
2. Discovery documents, including police reports, crime scene investigation documents, SLED and FBI reports, witness and defendant statements, polygraph reports, and autopsy report, dated July 1994 to September 1995;
3. Trial Transcript, Vol. I through IV, dated from September 18 to 22, 1995;
4. South Carolina Department of Corrections Records for J. Kelsey, including Warden's Jacket, Central Record, and Medical records, dated from November 1994 to June 2019;
5. Supreme Court of South Carolina, *State v. Joseph Kelsey*, 331 S.C. 50 (1998);
6. Supreme Court of South Carolina, *Geoffrey R. Payne v. State*, 355 S.C. 642 (2003);
7. J. Kelsey Apology Letter to the Richie Family, dated September 1, 2016;
8. News Article, 'SC Prisoners train to help prevent suicides by fellow inmates,' by T. Michael Boddie, Post & Courier, dated June 14, 2019;
9. News Story, "It's national suicide awareness week. These inmates are looking out for those who feel hopeless," by Caroline Hecker, WISTV.com, September 9, 2019;
10. SCDC Inmate Search Detail Report, last accessed October 12, 2019;
11. Affidavit from forensic pathologist, Joel M. Sexton, MD, dated October 23, 2019;

**Certificates of Education and Accomplishments**

12. S.C. High School Equivalency Diploma, dated March 1, 1995;
13. SC Dept. of Education Certificate of Award for Superior GED Examination Scores, and congratulatory letter from the State Superintendent of Education, dated March 1, 1995;
14. SCDC Certificate of Appreciation for 'Service and Leadership to the Lee CI Education Department,' dated August 28, 1997;
15. S.C. High School Diploma from Summerville High School, dated June 9, 1998;
16. SCDC Certificate of Achievement for GED Teaching Assistant, dated June 29, 1998;
17. Pre-Q Rubber Company, Certificate of Completion, dated March 3, 2005;
18. SCDC Training Certificate from Lieber CI – Prison Industries, dated April 6, 2010;
19. SCDC Certificate of Appreciation for '12 Years of Dedicated Service to Prison Industries,' and Support Memorandum, dated April 19 and 29, 2010;
20. SCDC Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteering in Library Services over the past five years, dated March 25, 2011;
21. Work Keys Summary, dated November 9, 2012;
22. CIU Transcript of Courses and Grades, dated from 2013 to 2016;
23. SCDC Certificate of Appreciation 'In Recognition of Outstanding Hospice Volunteer Services,' dated August 2, 2013;
24. PASS Diploma for Successful Completion of all Ten PASS Modules, with attached Letter from C. Carbone, Esq., dated December 19, 2013;
25. PASS Certificates of Completion for Modules, Victim Awareness; Gang Diversion; Domestic Violence; Anger Management; Addiction; Parenting; Nonviolent Communication; Conflict Resolution; Living with Purpose; and Re-entry Into Society, dated from April 8, 2013 to December 19, 2013;
26. Kirkland CI Certificate of Achievement Pre-Release Program, dated September 20, 2015;

27. CIU Prison Initiative Certificate of Completion for 25 Hours of Training in Comparative Religion, dated November 16, 2015;
28. Men's Fraternity Certificate 'Quest for Authentic Manhood,' dated November 20, 2015;
29. SC Pathways Certificate of Recognition for Volunteer Hospice Service at Kirkland R&E Infirmary, dated December 10, 2015;
30. CIU Certificate of Achievement in Recognition of IT Training from Columbia International University, dated December 11, 2015;
31. Columbia International University Associate of Arts Degree, dated December 2015;
32. SCDC Certificate of Excellence 'In Recognition of Your Personal Commitment, Dedication and Performance' on the CSU Unit, dated June 30, 2016;
33. BRCI CSU Certificate of Achievement for 'Contributing to the Operation and Success of the Crisis Stabilization Unit,' dated March 24, 2017;
34. JumpStart Certificate of Completion "In the Category of Blue," dated June 12, 2017;
35. SCDC Certificate of Completion of 'Review of Psychiatric Emergencies' for 10 Hours of Training Credit, dated July 18, 2017;
36. Columbia International University Letter, from Bryan Beyer, PhD., Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, dated August 15, 2017;
37. Pure Life Ministries Graduation Certificate, dated August 8, 2018;
38. Men's Fraternity Certificate, 'Winning at Home and Work,' dated November 29, 2018;
39. Curriculum vitae of Mr. Joseph Kelsey, dated March 27, 2019;
40. SCDC CSU Certificate of Completion for 'Boundaries' training, dated June 4, 2019;

**Letters of Support and Offered Employment**

41. Mr. Bill Gray, Administrative Coordinator / Prison Industries, on April 19, 2010;
42. Ms. Janine Keene, Examinee's twin sister, dated July 6, 2015;
43. Ms. Sarah Jagoditsch, Examinee's Fiancé's grandmother, dated July 8, 2015;
44. Mr. Rex M. Divine, Former SCDC Employee, dated August 1, 2015;
45. Mr. Stephen Baarendse, Associate Professor, CIU, dated August 7, 2015;
46. Ms. Ashlea Kelsey, Examinee's niece, dated August 9, 2015;
47. Ms. Amanda Chaney, Examinee's Cousin, dated August 13, 2015;
48. Ms. Keely Burwinkel, Examinee's high school acquaintance, dated August 20, 2015;
49. Ms. Cindy Reid, RN, Mother of fellow CSU worker, dated August 22, 2015;
50. Ms. Tonya Kelsey, Examinee's Sister, dated September 1, 2015;
51. Ms. Henri E. Baskins, Community Relations Council, September 13, 2015;
52. Mr. Thomas Speigal, Examinee's high school friend, dated September 15, 2015;
53. Mae K. Guinn, Ed.S. Former Highschool Guidance Counselor, September 19, 2015;
54. Ms. Amanda Kelsey, Examinee's half-sister, dated September 20, 2015;
55. Mr. Wayne Novotny, Examinee's uncle, dated July 20, 2015;
56. Pastor Mike Thompson / Christian Family Chapel, dated September 22, 2015;
57. Mr. Benjamin Kelsey, Examinee's brother, dated September 24, 2015;
58. Ms. Frances Jagoditsch, Examinee's fiancé's mother, dated October 2, 2015;
59. Mr. Charles T. Kelsey, Examinee's brother, on October 5, 2015;
60. David Cashin, PhD., CIU Prison Initiative Program, dated October 12, 2015;
61. Mr. Aparna Desal, SCDC Employee, dated October 13, 2015;
62. Ms. Bethany Wilks, Examinee's fiancé's sister, dated October 19, 2015;
63. Senior Pastor Nate Wilks, Calvary Presbyterian church, dated October 19, 2015;
64. Dr. John K. Hill, LMFT, Center for Care and Counseling, dated October 20, 2015;

65. Rev. William R. Pauling, Pastor / Mount Ebal Baptist Church, dated October 21, 2015;
66. Mr. Richard Hernandez, RH Electrical and Maintenance, Inc., dated September 25, 2017;
67. Ms. Donna Kelsey, Examinee's mother, dated September 25, 2017;
68. Mr. Charles Kelsey, Examinee's father, dated October 17, 2017;
69. Ms. Lynn Westberg, Examinee's stepmother, dated October 17, 2017;
70. Mr. Henry Flint, MHT, with the CSU Unit in SCDC, dated October 24, 2017;
71. Mr. J. Gudvangen, BSN, RN, SCDC Employee, dated October 26, 2017;
72. Ms. Jennifer Montgomery, Examinee's fiancé, dated October 31, 2017;
73. Mr. Paul Dennis, Program Manager / CSU Unit at SCDC, dated November 18, 2017;
74. Mr. C. Austin Edmondson, MA, with the CSU Unit in SCDC, dated April 26, 2019;
75. Mr. Gary Minion, volunteer minister with JUMPSTART, dated June 26, 2019;
76. Mr. Mac Ogburn volunteer and mentor with JUMPSTART, dated September 25, 2019;
77. Mr. Paul Dennis, Program Manager / CSU Unit at SCDC, dated October 1, 2019;
78. Mr. Richard Hernandez, RH Electrical and Maintenance, Inc., dated October 4, 2019;
79. Nurse Ann-Marie Elwood, RN, CSU Unit at BRCI, dated October 5, 2019;
80. Ms. Donna Kelsey, Examinee's mother, dated October 6, 2019;
81. Mr. Thomas Speigal, Examinee's high school friend, dated October 7, 2019;
82. Ms. Grace Dye, Assistant Director / CIU Prison Initiative, October 8, 2019;
83. Mr. Charles T. Kelsey, Examinee's brother, on October 11, 2019;
84. Ms. Jennifer Montgomery, Examinee's fiancé, dated October 11, 2019;
85. Painted Clouds Farm, Inc. [offer of employment] dated October 12, 2019;
86. Ms. Lynn Westberg, Examinee's stepmother, dated October 12, 2019;
87. Mr. Michael Fiorello, PhD., Pastoral Counselor, dated October 12, 2019;
88. Mr. Walter Westberg, Examinee's Half-Brother, October 12, 2019;
89. Mr. Phil and Vicky Wetzel, Wooly's LLC [offer of employment] October 13, 2019;
90. Mr. Charles Kelsey, Examinee's father, dated October 13, 2019;
91. Mr. Benjamin Kelsey, Examinee's brother, dated October 14, 2019;
92. Nurse Courtney Olds-Williams, CSU Interim Head Nurse, dated October 15, 2019;
93. Senior Pastor Nate Wilks, Calvary Presbyterian church, dated October 14, 2019;
94. Ms. Tonya Kelsey, Examinee's Sister, dated October 18, 2019;
95. Ms. Ashlea Kelsey, Examinee's niece, dated October 19, 2019;
96. Ms. Amanda Kelsey, Examinee's half-sister, dated October 19, 2019;
97. Ms. Frances Jagoditsch, Examinee's fiancé's mother, dated October 20, 2015;
98. Ms. Bethany Wilks, Fiancé's sister, dated October 20, 2019;
99. Ms. Janine Keene, Examinee's twin sister, dated October 20, 2019;
100. Bryan Beyer, PhD., Dean of Columbia International University, dated October 23, 2019;
101. Mr. Casey Lambert, Lambert Logistics, Inc, [offer of employment] undated;

### **Interviews/Testing**

102. Clinical Interview with Mr. Joseph Kelsey, two hours, on March 21, 2019;
103. Clinical Interview with Mr. Joseph Kelsey, three and one half hours, on April 19, 2019;
104. Interview (by telephone) with Ms. Janine Keene [sister], on June 27, 2019;
105. Interview (by telephone) with Ms. Jennifer Montgomery [fiancé], on June 28, 2019;
106. Interview (by telephone) with Ms. Fran Jagoditsch [fiancé's mother], on July 2, 2019;
107. Clinical Interview and Psychological Testing with Mr. Joseph Kelsey, four and one half hours, on June 27, 2019;
108. Interview (by telephone) with Ms. Donna Kelsey [mother], on June 24, 2019;

109. Interview (by telephone) with Mr. Charles Kelsey [father], on July 16, 2019;
110. Interview (by telephone) with Mr. Ted Kelsey [brother], on July 13, 2019;
111. Interview (by telephone) with Mr. Tonya Kelsey [sister], on July 11, 2019;
112. Interview (by telephone) with Mr. Ben Kelsey [brother], on September 23, 2019;
113. Interview (by telephone) with Ms. Lynn Westberg [stepmother], on September 24, 2019;
114. Interview (by telephone) with Mr. Paul Dennis, Program Manager in SCDC's Crisis Stabilization Unit [CSU] at BRCI, on September 26, 2019;
115. Interview (by telephone) with Nurse Courtney Olds-Williams, SCDC Nursing staff in CSU at BRCI, on October 3, 2019;
116. Interview (by telephone) with Mae Guinn, Ed.S., former school guidance counselor, on October 17, 2019;
117. Interview (by telephone) with Dr. John K. Hill, marriage counselor, on October 18, 2019.

**DISCLOSURE OF NON-CONFIDENTIALITY:** Prior to the evaluation, Mr. Kelsey was provided information regarding the purpose and non-confidential nature of the evaluation. He was informed that any provided information would not be confidential and, at his attorneys' discretion, may be distributed to the parole board. Mr. Kelsey endorsed an understanding of the parameters of the evaluation and provided his consent to proceed.

**Pertinent Social History [Pre-Offense]:** As a young child, Mr. Kelsey was raised within an intact family, with his twin sister and three older siblings. He moved frequently due to family dynamics. His father served in the military (U.S. Army) and earned a degree in nuclear engineering, and his mother was a teacher and a homemaker. At age 8, his parents divorced, which was sudden and acrimonious, due to his father's affair. His father left the country shortly thereafter, due to being stationed in Germany. He remarried and had two additional children. Mr. Kelsey was subsequently raised by his mother, who remarried when he was 12. At age 15, he left his mother's home in Colorado to live with his father in Augusta, Georgia. He reported no abuse of any kind during his upbringing, citing his parents' divorce as his only childhood trauma.

**Parole-Eligible Offense:** The homicide offense took place on July 12, 1994, in McCormick County, South Carolina. *[Note: SCDC records indicate Marlboro County, which is incorrect].* Mr. Kelsey had been residing with his father and stepmother in Augusta since January 1993. His mother and her husband remained in Colorado. In June 1994, Mr. Kelsey completed his 11<sup>th</sup> grade year at Lakeside High School in Evans, Georgia. Several weeks after the school year ended, in late June 1994, his father, stepmother and their children moved to Maryland. He had no additional family in the state, and was left without adult supervision, to stay here and there with teenage friends. During this time, he worked at a "cricket farm," frequented parties and socialized with other teenagers. He was "really worried about friends, girlfriends and being accepted" and his "self-esteem was not good."

At one point, he and his peers began to make pipe bombs, in order to see them explode. As a kid, he had seen his older brother make such a device, and as children they had "strung fireworks together" for a similar effect. Mr. Kelsey, his two codefendants, Geoff Payne and Jamie Lee, and additional peers experimented with these items. For example, they "blew up one in the backyard...just to watch stuff go boom, like adrenaline, being teenagers."

On the evening of the offense, he described a party, where he and his friends were “hanging out” and consuming alcohol, with no adult supervision. His codefendants arrived at the party with the victim (15-year old female), who was in need of first aid due to a recent cut on her foot. Most of the evening, Mr. Kelsey was on the phone with his girlfriend, who was not at the party. He reported drinking “three beers over the whole evening” and denied any drug use. He stated his two codefendants gave the victim beer, and eventually crushed up an ecstasy tablet in her drink. He was not involved in these activities. He reported Mr. Payne attempted to have sex with the victim. Eventually, Mr. Payne and Mr. Lee, decided to take the victim home, and Mr. Kelsey came along as he thought they might “blow up a pipe bomb” along the way.

During the ride, Mr. Lee was driving. Mr. Kelsey was sitting in the front seat, with Mr. Payne and the victim in the back seat. At some point, he “looked back and saw Geoff [Payne] choking the victim.” He felt “horrified, shocked” and “curled into a ball.” His other codefendant “stopped the car” at which point, Mr. Kelsey “checked her pulse and there was no pulse.” Immediately afterwards, “Geoff [Payne] tried to have sex with her” as they were stopped on the side of the road. He stated all three took the victim’s body into the woods, and Mr. Payne asked Mr. Kelsey for the pipe bomb. He instructed Mr. Kelsey to put it in her mouth, which he did, and then Mr. Payne lit the pipe bomb. Mr. Kelsey felt very scared, and cried all night when they returned home. He “didn’t tell anybody because I didn’t want anything to do with it, I didn’t want to be associated with it...” Thus, he did not tell the victim’s family what happened or her whereabouts.

*[Mr. Kelsey’s account is consistent with the S.C. Supreme Court’s ruling in Payne v. State (2003), in which the Court stated, “whether the victim died by Payne strangling her to death, or by Payne lighting the fuse of the pipe bomb that exploded in her mouth, the testimony overwhelming proves that Payne murdered her.” It is also consistent with the opinion of the trial’s forensic pathologist, who affirmed in a 2019 affidavit that, “There is nothing in the evidence to prove that Melanie Richey was alive or dead at the time of the bomb blast... Whether she died of the alleged drugs she was administered or alleged strangulation could not clearly be established because of the skeletonization of the body... Therefore... all three (bomb, drugs, strangulation) had to be considered and listed as the probable cause(s) of death.”*

In discussing the offense, Mr. Kelsey stated, “the pain caused the victim’s family is something that can never be made up for.” He specifically discussed his decision to not inform them of what happened, thus, prolonging their pain and suffering. Even though he did not commit the homicide, he “feels responsible and guilty, I did everything wrong, every step of the way, I should have made sure she got home safely.” He was very tearful when describing the incident.

**COURSE OF INCARCERATION:** Mr. Kelsey began his sentence in SCDC on **November 22, 1994**, for charges unrelated to his life sentence. He has since maxed out his sentence on those charges, as they only carried one to two years. In September 1995, his ‘life eligible’ sentence began. In 2015, Mr. Kelsey first became eligible for parole, with prior parole hearings on November 18, 2015 and November 15, 2017.

Given the length of his incarceration, he has been housed at numerous institutions. More recently, in 2014, he was placed at Kirkland CI, to complete his Associate of Arts degree for the Crisis Stabilization Unit, and then eventually to Broad River CI in order to work fulltime in the Crisis Stabilization Unit, where he presently resides.

**Academic:** On March 1, 1995, Mr. Kelsey earned his South Carolina High School Equivalency [GED], with very high percentiles on all subjects tested, placing him “in the top five percent of South Carolina GED graduates.” In June 1998, he was awarded his High School Diploma through Summerville High School. In 2012, he earned his WorkKeys Certification at the ‘Gold’ Level; and in 2013, completed all training modules for graduation from the PASS [Prisoner Assistance Scholastic Service] program. In December 2015, he graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Columbia International University [CIU]; and in December 2019, will graduate from Ashworth College with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies, with a concentration in Business Administration from CIU. Per the Dean of CIU, Mr. Kelsey was one of 15 inmates selected to participate in the CIU program, and “one of only five Prison Initiative graduates who has gone on to complete their bachelor’s degree after completing our program.”

**Vocational:** Mr. Kelsey has worked consistently in SCDC, since 1995. From 1995 to 1997, he worked as a Clerk in the Education/Guidance counselor’s office at Lee CI; in 1998, as a Teacher’s Assistant in GED Education at Lieber CI; from 1998 to 2012, as an Administrative Clerk in PI, at Lieber CI, during which time he was certified in tire retread and repair, and as a forklift operator; from 2012 to 2014, as an Administrative Clerk in Education at Lee CI; from 2014 to 2015, as a Student in the CIU Prison Initiative at Kirkland CI; in 2016, as a Chaplain Assistant at Evans CI; and from 2016 to present, he has worked as a para-professional counselor, in the Crisis Stabilization Unit at BRCI. With his current position, he works with suicidal inmates, “talks to them, it’s a great opportunity to help people.” He teared up speaking of a recent suicide, and appeared very empathic with regard to the patients’ conditions. He resides on the upstairs floor of the unit, with the other inmate companions.

**Activities/Accomplishments:** Mr. Kelsey has also been involved in numerous prosocial pursuits over his incarceration, in an attempt to rehabilitate his life, and to help others. In 1997, and again 2011, he was involved in ‘Operation Behind Bars’ to prevent youth from involvement in crime. From 2006 to 2011, he volunteered in the library to assist in the creation and maintenance of library databases for staff and inmates to use. In 2012 and 2013, he served as a Charter Resident of the Character Based Units at Lieber CI and Lee CI, assisting to further CBU’s goals of recidivism reduction and prosocial character building. In 2012 and 2013, he served on the Student Advisory Council at Lee CI in order to bring academic issues to the attention of staff. In 2013 and 2015, he worked as a hospice volunteer at Lee CI and Kirkland CI. Although too numerous to mention, he has continued to participate in trainings to enhance his skills, as he is motivated perform to the best of his ability. Of particular note, in 2019, he completed JumpStart Leadership Training, which is reserved for “blue folder JumpStart graduates, who have been unanimously approved by the existing leadership.”

Throughout these activities, and as listed above, he has been awarded many ‘Certificates’ of ‘Excellence,’ ‘Achievement,’ ‘Participation’ and ‘Completion.’

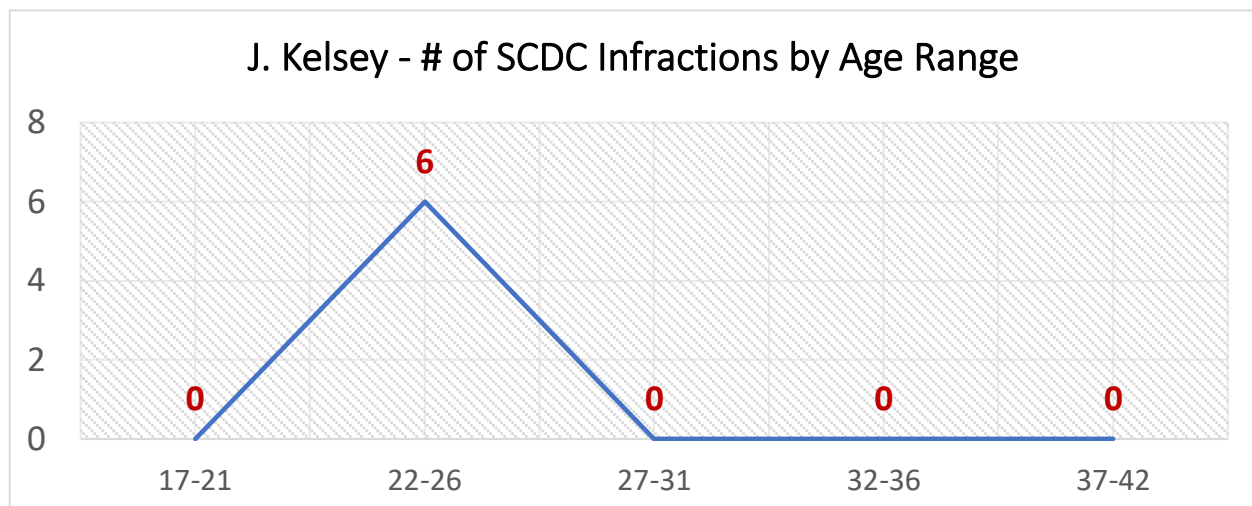
**Faith-Based Programming:** He has also been involved in faith-based programming, to include Kiaros in 1996; Men’s Fraternity ‘Quest for Authentic Manhood’ in 2015; earned a ‘Blue Folder’ from JumpStart in 2017; and in 2018, completed ‘Men’s Fraternity: Winning at Work and at Home.’ Additionally, in 2016, he worked as a Chaplain’s Assistant at Evans CI during which he facilitated Bible studies and life-skills classes, among other duties.

**Interpersonal Functioning:** Mr. Kelsey is presently engaged to Jennifer Montgomery, whom he originally knew from Lakeside High School. They rekindled a relationship around 2007, when she wrote to him. They wrote letters, and spoke on the phone frequently, until she came to see him at the end of 2013. Since that time, she has visited “twice a weekend, every weekend” and they talk frequently. They have immediate plans to marry if he is released on parole. Her mother visits him with regularity, and they have established a close relationship.

**Medical/Mental Health:** Mr. Kelsey has remained essentially healthy over his incarceration. No medical conditions have been identified, and he does not take any type of medication. In 2017, he incurred a nasal fracture from an injury playing basketball, and required surgery at Palmetto Health Richland. He has no history of additional surgeries in SCDC. He reported his only mental health encounter as during his September 1995 trial, when he experienced anxiety surrounding the legal proceedings. SCDC records note he was treated with Vistaril, 50 mg, for several days due to “situational anxiety.” He has no history of any additional mental health evaluation or treatment during his incarceration.

**Substance Use:** Regarding substances, he reported consuming “homemade wine” during his early years of incarceration. He reported no alcohol in at least “ten years.” He also reported marijuana use during his earlier years, with his last use “16 years ago.” He presently views any substance use as “counter-productive” to his goals and has no urges or desire to use. Per SCDC records, in September 2003, at age 26, he tested positive for “THC/Marijuana.” This is his only substance-related infraction and only ‘Major’ conviction/infraction on his record.

**Disciplinary:** Mr. Kelsey’s ‘Record Summary Sheet’ from SCDC dated June 24, 2019, indicates he has had “no escape history;” “no criminal charges while in custody;” “no priors;” and “no detainers.” Regarding disciplinary infractions, he has no convictions for ‘Assaultive Disciplinary.’ He has incurred six ‘Non-Assaultive Disciplinary,’ only one of which was classified as ‘Major.’ These charges include Damage, Destroy Property [March 2002, Other]; Out of Place [February 2003, Minor]; Refusing or Failing to Obey [April 2003, Minor]; Use or Possession of Marijuana [September 2003, Major]; Out of Place [March 2004, Other]; and Out of Place [May 2004, Other]. His last infraction occurred at age 26.



\*Only 1 of the 6 infractions was classified as ‘Major.’ All others were ‘Minor’ or ‘Other.’

**SCDC Collateral Interview Data:** In addition to reviewing his entire SCDC file, the examiner interviewed SCDC staff members familiar with Mr. Kelsey.

**Paul Dennis [CSU Program Manager]:** Mr. Dennis has worked with Mr. Kelsey for the past three and a half years in CSU, where he is the Program Manager. He stated Mr. Kelsey is responsible for “managing the guys on crisis, watching them one to one, when guys are in need, or a danger to themselves or others, he assists with peer support. He does well, he’s soft-spoken, he gives them his story...” Mr. Dennis further described him as “mild-mannered, follows the rules and regulations, no issues with discipline.” He stated Mr. Kelsey is “my assistant, with the supplies, and with putting everything in order, does all the things that keep the program running...he’s trustworthy, no issues, gets along with fellow inmates well, and works well with the staff back here.” Mr. Kelsey resides upstairs of the CSU unit with the other inmate companions and “they’re like a family up there, he’s one of 32 when we’re fully staffed.”

Mr. Dennis was asked if Mr. Kelsey had any sort of leadership role on the CSU unit. He stated, “yes, he’s my assistant, so he stands out from the rest of the inmate companions.” Mr. Dennis chose him for his assistant as he is “a hard worker, dependable, and he has integrity.” When asked if he would have any concerns with Mr. Kelsey granted parole, he stated “I don’t see anything, from the temperament he has in here, from how he is doing, no issues, I haven’t seen anything that would caution me.”

**Nurse Courtney Olds-William [CSU Nurse]:** Nurse Olds-Williams has worked at SCDC for the past six years, and works in the CSU unit with Mr. Kelsey. She works with Ms. Kelsey “eight hours a day, sometimes ten hours a day.” He “keeps track of all of our supplies, he is so well-organized, so professional, and it can get chaotic.” He “keeps everything accurate, keeps the inventory accurate, he is very dependable.” She further described him as a “model inmate, well-spoken, calm, all the inmates love him...” She also noted he has very good relationships with all of the staff, and that she has never seen any disciplinary issues from Mr. Kelsey. When asked if she would have any concerns with Mr. Kelsey being granted parole, she stated “none whatsoever, no concerns.” She stated, “I can trust him, I can be in a room alone with him, and trust him, and you can’t say that about many inmates.”

**TRANSITION PLAN:** If granted parole, Mr. Kelsey has multiple options of where to reside and work, given his very strong support system. The preferred option is to reside with his fiancé, Ms. Jennifer Montgomery, in Augusta, Georgia, living in a recently purchased home, with immediate plans to marry. She has very strong ties to the Augusta community, with regard to her family and career, where she works as the Dean of Students and Assistant Executive Director at Georgia Military College. Her mother resides within several miles, and has pledged her strong support of Mr. Kelsey’s release, as her son-in-law. She and her family will provide financial, emotional, and social support, upon his release. Regarding employment, Mr. Kelsey has been offered a job by Lambert Logistics, Inc., out of Martinez, Georgia, working for Casey Lambert.

Mr. Kelsey also has the option of residing in South Dakota, where his father and stepmother reside; or in Corpus Christi, Texas, where his mother resides. His fiancé would relocate with him to either of these locations. If the latter two options are exercised, then his parole would be transferred via the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS).

In order to confirm his proposed plans, and to ‘vet’ his relationship with Ms. Montgomery, the examiner spoke with Ms. Montgomery, her mother, their marriage counselor, and a professional educator and counselor who has known them both since teenagers. Mr. Kelsey’s family was also contacted to confirm the proposed plans, and to assess their role and support in his transition.

Collateral Interviews [Fiancé and Fiancé’s Mother]: His fiancé is 41 years old, and resides in Augusta, Georgia, in a recently purchased home. She has resided in the Augusta area for 33 years, with present employment at Georgia Military College. Her family resides within several miles of her residence. She described first meeting Mr. Kelsey in high school, during which time they were acquaintances. More recently, she began building a relationship with Mr. Kelsey around 2007, and they became engaged in 2013. She described their relationship as “completely committed” and she sees him eight times month, “the maximum.” She verified his release plan, noting plans to “get married the right way” in a local church once he is released.

In an interview with his fiancé’s mother, she stated she has met Mr. Kelsey many times and has met his family. Her mother described the relationship between her daughter and Mr. Kelsey as “genuine and reciprocal” and that she “approves of their plan to get married.” Her mother stated she “cares about” Mr. Kelsey and is “happy to support him in any capacity.”

Collateral Interview [Former Marriage Counselor]: Dr. John K. Hill, DMin, LMFT, is a licensed marriage and family counselor in the North Augusta area, with a counseling degree from Yale University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. Ms. Montgomery and Mr. Kelsey sought pre-marital counseling from Dr. Hill after their engagement. Ms. Montgomery was present in his office, with Mr. Kelsey on the phone, during sessions. Dr. Hill believed they had at least six sessions focusing on their relationship and Mr. Kelsey’s rehabilitation efforts. In his experience and opinion, the relationship “seemed very real, solid” and genuine. He found Mr. Kelsey to be “very reasonable, intelligent, very remorseful...” and believed they would have the makings of a “good marriage.” He also emphasized that Ms. Montgomery knew Mr. Kelsey from high school, and thus, had a basis to reach out and begin a friendship when she did, versus someone without such history. He has known Ms. Montgomery “for years” in the Augusta area, and believed her to be a sincere, stable, and authentic individual.

Collateral Interview [Former School Guidance Counselor]: Ms. Mae Guinn, Ed.S. has worked in the field of education for over 27 years, and is now retired. In the 1990’s, she served as the high school guidance counselor at Lakeside High School, where both Mr. Kelsey and Ms. Montgomery were students. She recalled both as “good kids” and “normal and well-liked.” She has also known Ms. Montgomery for years, as both reside in the Augusta area. She described Ms. Montgomery as “a very solid person, level-headed.” She believes their relationship is real and “not a pseudo-relationship.” If Mr. Kelsey is paroled, she offered counseling sessions as part of their “re-integration plan.”

Collateral Interviews [Examinee’s Family]: Mr. Kelsey’s family members, including his mother, father, stepmother, twin sister, older sister, and two older brothers were interviewed regarding support post-incarceration. His mother stated “we will do anything we can to help, everybody’s on the same page,” with all members expressing “total” and “absolute” support. His family has also met his fiancé, Jennifer, and stated “her family has accepted Joe.” All family members are financially stable, with successful careers, or have retired.

**CLINICAL PRESENTATION:** For each interview, Mr. Kelsey presented as neatly dressed in prison-issued attire, with very good attention to grooming and hygiene. He was polite, respectful, and cooperative. He presented as mild-mannered, and forthcoming with all information asked. His mood was pleasant and stable, with appropriate, full range of affect. He was soft-spoken, with normal rate and prosody of speech. He was thoughtful and deliberate with his responses, and at times, exhibited emotional responses (e.g., sadness, tearfulness) when discussing sensitive topics regarding his background and the offense. There were no abnormalities observed in his psychomotor functioning. His thought process was linear and organized, with no bizarre content. Judgment and insight appeared good. There were no overt indicators of major mental disorder, personality disorder or cognitive deficits.

***Clinical Functioning:*** Mr. Kelsey reported no symptoms consistent with a mental disorder, including major mood instability related to depression, mania, hypomania, or anger dyscontrol; psychotic symptomatology; self-injurious conduct, suicide attempts, or suicidal or homicidal ideation; traumatic stress; chronic elevated anxiety, panic attacks, intrusive worry or phobias; or obsessive-compulsive symptoms. With regard to current functioning, he reported no dysregulation in mood, affect, appetite, sleep, energy level, concentration, memory or cognition.

***Psychological Testing:*** On June 27, 2019, Mr. Kelsey was administered the **Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory®, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (MMPI®-2)**, which is the preferred test of SCDC for use in conditional parole evaluations. The MMPI®-2 is an assessment measure designed to assess personality and affective functioning. Validity indicators are included measuring a test-taker's overall approach and response style.

***Validity*** scales indicated Mr. Kelsey responded to all items, responded consistently and without exaggeration or minimization of symptomatology; and without significant defensiveness: F-Scale [T = 45]; L-Scale [T = 52]; K-Scale [T = 66]; and S-Scale [T = 59]. In his case, the slight elevation on the K-scale is reflective of a well-functioning individual, who sees his life as well-managed and with good emotional control, self-sufficiency and the ability to cope, rather than defensiveness. This result is found more often in individuals of higher education and SES status, and is consistent with his scores on the additional validity indices.

***Clinical*** findings were indicative of someone with high self-confidence, minimal emotional distress, regrets regarding life decisions, good sociality, and well-controlled anger and frustration tolerance. Findings were also significant for a history of antisocial conduct and authority issues, during adolescence, of which Mr. Kelsey was very open in reporting. Items on the elevated subscales have a 'historical bias' and tap into 'admissions of delinquencies in the past.' Thus, such results are in line with his history, and to be expected given his legal situation. They do not reflect current antisocial pathology, and his record reflects no such behaviors in many years. In addition, one substance subscale was slightly elevated, [Scale AAS, T = 65], however, all other substance measures were within normal limits. In reviewing the critical items with Mr. Kelsey, this reflected his openness in reporting prior substance use, and does not reflect current use. As with all psychological assessment measures, interpretation of results must take into consideration the totality of evaluation data, to include all records and collateral data, in determining diagnostic and personality findings. Overall, Mr. Kelsey's MMPI-2 profile does not support clinical instability, mental disorder or personality psychopathology.

**DIAGNOSTIC FORMULATION:** The following diagnoses are rendered according to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, (DSM-5)*.

- **Diagnosis:** No Diagnosis  
(Previously Axis I & Axis II)
- **Medical Conditions:** None Known  
(Previously Axis III)

Mr. Kelsey has no history of mental disorder; and he does not presently meet criteria for a personality disorder, cognitive disorder, adjustment disorder, substance disorder or other psychopathology. Thus, no diagnosis is offered.

**VIOLENCE RISK ASSESSMENT:** A violence risk assessment measure was utilized to supplement the above data and more formally evaluate the issue of future violence risk.

**HCR-20<sup>V3</sup>:** The HCR-20<sup>V3</sup> is an interview and assessment tool designed to assess an individual's risk of future violence. This tool has been subject to rigorous empirical validation, and is used routinely in parole evaluations for those serving life sentences.<sup>1, 2</sup> The HCR-20<sup>V3</sup> is comprised of twenty items in *Historical*, *Clinical* and *Risk Management* domains that combine to assess an individual's overall level of violent recidivism risk. Thus, the measure captures past, present, and future risk variables. These variables have been demonstrated via research to correlate with an individual's risk of violence. Items are assessed for the *presence* of the risk factor, and the *relevancy* (*low, moderate or high*) of the item to address future violence for that individual. Information on these variables was obtained through in-depth clinical interviews with Mr. Kelsey, collateral interviews and by review of collateral data.

- **Historical** variables are considered over an individual's lifetime and include history of: 1) *violence*; 2) *violent attitudes*; 3) *antisocial behaviors*; 4) *instability of relationships*; 5) *instability of employment*; 6) *substance use*; 7) *major mental illness*; 8) *personality disorders*; 9) *traumatic experiences*; and 10) *problems with treatment response*.

With regard to history of violence, Mr. Kelsey has had no known violent behavior prior to the offense, or during his present incarceration. With regard to the homicide offense at age 16, prior court decisions are clear that his codefendant gave the victim illicit drugs, strangled her, and lit the fuse of the pipe bomb. Mr. Kelsey's role was limited to a failure to act in an effort to prevent harm to the victim, and of placing the pipe bomb in her mouth. This latter action would be considered the 'violent act,' however, he believed she was already dead, and his codefendant lit the fuse. Nevertheless, since the pathologist cannot definitely determine the cause of death (e.g., drugs, strangulation, and/or explosion), his action would be considered violent, given that he aided his codefendant in this endeavor, and was present when the fuse was lit. This seems to be his only 'act of violence' over his 42 years. Thus, this factor is historically *present*, but of *low relevance* when considering the circumstances and current risk management strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> Laura S. Guy et al., *Influence of the HCR-20, LS/CMI, and PCL-R on Decisions About Parole Suitability Among Lifers*, 39 LAW HUMAN BEHAV 232 (2015).

<sup>2</sup> David R. Shaw, Office of the Inspector General, Special Report: *The Board of Parole Hearings: Psychological Evaluations and Mandatory Training Requirements* [July 2010] <https://www.oig.ca.gov>.

Regarding a related factor, data did not indicate that Mr. Kelsey has a history of entrenched **violent attitudes**; therefore, this factor is **not present**.

Considering a pattern of **antisocial behaviors** (criminal activity other than violence), Mr. Kelsey has no history of juvenile offenses. At age 17, he incurred charges related to stealing a car for the purpose of “joyriding” and did not stop for police. His SCDC disciplinary record indicates very few infractions given the length of his incarceration, with six infractions in over 24 years. All but one was classified as ‘Minor’ or ‘Other’ by SCDC. Further, most of his infractions would not be considered ‘antisocial’ conduct, as they would not be illegal if he were in the community (e.g., Refusing to Obey; ‘Out of Place’ etc.). Therefore, he has no established ‘pattern’ of antisocial conduct, and thus, this factor is **not present**.

In consideration of **instability in relationships**, Mr. Kelsey was first incarcerated at age 17, and thus, had no truly serious relationships prior to his incarceration. Since 2013, he has been in a committed relationship, with his now fiancé. All available sources, including her family, cite their stability, love and mutual companionship, as a very positive development. Further, he has maintained positive relationships with his family, over his incarceration, which remain strong and committed. Thus, he has no pattern of relationship instability, (defined as multiple short-term, turbulent or conflictual relationships). As such, this factor is **not present**.

Regarding **instability of employment**, Mr. Kelsey was a teenager at the time of his arrest, and had no sustained work history of any length. During his incarceration, he has held multiples types of jobs, with most of significant length, spanning years. For example, he worked for two years as a clerk in education; and for 12 years as an administrative clerk in PI. He is currently employed in the CSU unit, working as a para-professional counselor, with suicidal inmates, where he has worked for over three years. Of note, his history is not reflective of periods of unemployment, firings, poor performance reviews, conflicts with supervisors or coworkers, or other chronic problems. On the contrary, he has received many positive accolades for his work performance. Therefore, this factor is **not present**.

Regarding **history of substance abuse**, Mr. Kelsey drank alcohol frequently as a 16 year-old, however, he did not experience negative consequences from use. In prison, he has not consumed alcohol in over 10 years, and has no alcohol-related infractions. He has never met criteria for an alcohol-related disorder. He socially experimented with substances as a teenager, with his use in line with adolescent experimentation. He did not use more than five times, with no negative consequences from use. In SCDC, he used marijuana during his earlier years, and has one substance-related infraction when he tested positive for THC. His use did not rise to the level of a substance-disorder, and he has not used in 16 years. Additionally, substances were not a contributing factor in the offense conduct. Therefore, this factor is considered **not present**.

For the risk factor of **major mental disorder**, Mr. Kelsey has no history of major mental disorder. Therefore, this risk factor is **not present**. Additionally, he does not meet criteria for a **personality disorder** of any kind. SCDC records do not indicate diagnoses of personality disorders, and he did not meet criteria for a personality disorder upon current clinical evaluation. Therefore, this factor is **not present**.

Regarding history of **traumatic experiences**, Mr. Kelsey did not endorse a history of trauma, and collateral sources do not indicate such history. He has never experienced symptoms of traumatic stress (e.g., PTSD). Therefore, this risk factor is *not present*.

Mr. Kelsey has no **history of problems with treatment response**. He has no history of requiring any type of treatment, thus, this is not directly applicable. Additionally, he has complied with various programs, trainings, educational endeavors and other rehabilitation efforts, with excellent response. Therefore, this factor is *not present*.

▪ **Clinical** risk factors are considered over the past six months and include recent problems with: 1) *degree of insight*; 2) *violent ideation or intent*; 3) *symptoms of major mental disorder*; 4) *instability of functioning*; and 5) *treatment or supervision response*.

Mr. Kelsey's **degree of insight** into his offense, and current functioning is very good due to intact cognitive abilities, committed self-reflection over many years, and openness regarding his life choices. He speaks openly about the offense, and demonstrates in-depth insight into his role, insight regarding victim impact, and insight regarding how he has grown and evolved over his incarceration. Therefore, this factor is *not present*.

There is no indication that Mr. Kelsey has had any recent problems with **violent ideation or intent**, therefore this risk factor is *not present*. He does not have a major mental illness; therefore, he has no **recent symptoms of major mental disorder**, including affective, behavioral or cognitive instability. As such, this risk factor is *not present*. He is clinically stable at the present time, and thus his **stability of functioning** is good; therefore, this risk factor is *not present*. He has had no issues with **recent treatment or supervision response**, as he is not required to undergo any treatment, or supervision at the present time. He is compliant with all supervisors on the CSU unit. Therefore, this factor is *not present*.

▪ **Risk Management** factors represent an assessment of variables (out of custody) over the next six months and include future issues or problems with: 1) *professional services and plans*; 2) *living situation*; 3) *level of personal support*; 4) *treatment or supervision response*; and 5) *level of stress and coping*.

Regarding **professional services and plans**, Mr. Kelsey has been offered a full-time job which he can start immediately upon release. He is not in need of other types of professional services (e.g., medical or mental health), and thus this factor is *not present*.

Relatedly, his **living situation** is very secure, as he will move in with his fiancé, who has just purchased a home. He is also welcome to reside with any number of family members, who are all financially stable. Therefore, this risk factor is *not present*. With regard to **level of personal support**, Mr. Kelsey will have strong family and extrafamilial support. He has the unwavering support of his fiancé, with whom he will live, as well as her family which resides in very close proximity. Although they do not reside locally, he has the very strong support of all of his family members. His many letters of support provide additional evidence on this factor. Therefore, this risk factor is *not present*.

Regarding the factor of future ***treatment or supervision response***, Mr. Kelsey has no known needs for medical or mental health treatment at the present time; and has no history of compliance issues with supervision during his incarceration. Of note, he was chosen out of the 32 inmate workers in CSU to be the personal assistant of the program director, indicating strong qualities of compliance and dutifulness. Additionally, he has no interpersonal or clinical impediments that would hinder a positive response to parole supervision. Therefore, evidence supports a future positive treatment and supervision response. As such, this factor is *not present*.

Finally, the risk factor of future problems with ***level of stress or coping*** was considered. If released on parole, Mr. Kelsey would be faced with the challenges of adjusting to a very different ‘outside world,’ which may be stressful for anyone in his situation. However, as outlined above, he will have very strong personal support. He has also coped well in the stressful environment of the CSU, with his supervisors referring to him as “calm” and an asset to the program. Therefore, this risk factor is considered *present*, as with any transition of this magnitude, but of *low relevance*, given his support system and individual strengths.

***In sum***, based on the evaluation and application of the HCR-20<sup>v3</sup> risk factors to Mr. Kelsey’s specific history and situation, it is opined that only 2 out of 20 risk factors are *present*, but both are of *low relevance*. This factor includes *History of Violence* regarding the homicide offense over 25 years ago. Factors contributing to this offense are no longer present, and risk management strategies have evolved to reduce risk, to include: maturity past adolescence; longstanding prosocial lifestyle; education and viable job skills; clinical stability; insightfulness; and strong psychosocial support. The factor, *Stress and Coping*, was present, given potential release after many years. However, this is effectively addressed through his proven coping skills, and strong psychosocial support; and is thus, of low relevance.

**Table 1. [Summary of HCR-20<sup>v3</sup> Risk Factors, Presence and Relevance].**

<b>HCR-20<sup>v3</sup> Risk Factor</b>	<b>Presence</b>	<b>Relevance to Risk Management</b>
History of Violence	<i>Historically Present</i> (No serious violence prior to homicide or in 24+ years)	<i>Low</i> – Well Managed via age; maturity; longstanding prosocial lifestyle; job skills; education; clinical stability; insight & psychosocial support
Future Stress and Coping	<i>Present</i> (Related to transition after lengthy incarceration)	<i>Low</i> – Strong Coping Resources and Support Upon Release to Mitigate Stress

Taken together, in consideration of his individual, case-specific details, and available risk management strategies, data from the HCR-20<sup>v3</sup> indicates Mr. Kelsey represents a low risk for future violent acts.

**SUMMARY:** Based on evaluation data, which includes clinical interviews and psychological testing with Mr. Kelsey; interviews with his parents, siblings, fiancé, fiancé's mother, former marriage and guidance counselors, and SCDC staff; and review of psychosocial, legal and correctional records; and letters of support, the following was found.

**Prior Criminal Record and Supervision:** Per 'parole criteria' set forth by the SC Board of Pardons and Paroles,<sup>2</sup> "*The offender's prior criminal record and adjustment under any previous programs of supervision,*" was considered as part of his pre-offense history. Prior to the parole-eligible offense, Mr. Kelsey had no juvenile or adult charges. In the weeks after the offense, he incurred several minor charges, for which he maxed out his time in 1996. He has had no previous programs of supervision (e.g., parole or probation).

**Parole-Eligible Offense:** Per the Board's criteria, "*The nature and seriousness of the offender's offense, the circumstances surrounding that offense, and the prisoner's attitude toward it;*" as well as the, "*the offender's understanding of the causes of his past criminal conduct*" were assessed. At the time of the homicide, Mr. Kelsey was 16 years old, in mid-adolescence, with neurobiological maturity far from complete. Weeks before the homicide, his family had moved out of state, leaving him without any adult supervision, with no structure, and in the company of teenage peers. The homicide was committed with adolescent codefendants, one of whom also received a life sentence. Although his peers were charged as adults, Mr. Kelsey was waived to General Sessions via a transfer hearing, as he was still a juvenile.

Data from the trial testimony, and post-conviction holdings from the S.C. Supreme Court, are clear that the victim was murdered by his codefendant Geoff Payne by either drugs, strangulation or explosion; with the forensic pathologist unable to determine the cause of death. Thus, Mr. Kelsey's role was minimal as compared to his co-defendants, with regard to physical harm to the victim. However, Mr. Kelsey withheld information about the homicide, and did not disclose any information to her family. This needlessly prolonged their pain and suffering. Mr. Kelsey recognizes this decision as one that was very painful to the victim's family, and expresses much regret and guilt over his inaction in this regard. Further, he has accepted full responsibility for all of his actions and decisions surrounding the offense. His 'attitude' is one of great remorse, shame, and sadness for the victim's family and their loss.

Due to years of introspective reflection, he demonstrates very good 'understanding of the causes' of his criminal conduct, including lack of adult supervision; adolescent susceptibility to peer influence; poor decision-making due to desire for peer acceptance; and adolescent immaturity.

In consideration of the Board's parole criteria regarding, "*The offender's attitude toward family members, the victim, and authority in general,*" Mr. Kelsey has expressed significant remorse and empathy for the victim's family, and for the victim. He has written a letter of apology to the family in which he expressed, "Each day, I comprehend more fully, and regret more deeply, the devastation I brought on your family...[and] realize that there is nothing I can say or do to diminish the pain I have caused you..." He "cannot apologize enough" and "I am truly sorry for taking Melanie out of your life." He expressed similar sentiments during the present evaluation, with much tearfulness and emotion.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dppps.sc.gov/content/download/120663/2749351/file/Parole+Board+Manual+June+7+2017.pdf>.

Regarding 'attitude' towards authority, he has maintained compliance towards authority figures as evidenced by very few infractions over his incarceration, and by the many favorable letters of support from SCDC staff and supervisors. His direct supervisor also lauded his compliance and responsibility to this examiner regarding his current job.

**Course of Incarceration:** In consideration of the Board's parole criteria: "*The offender's adjustment while in confinement, including his progress in counseling, therapy, and other similar programs designed to encourage the prisoner to improve himself;*" "*The offender's employment history, including his job training and skills and his stability in the workplace;*" and "*The offender's efforts to solve his problems;*" the following was found.

Mr. Kelsey's efforts at self-improvement have been committed, sustained, and sincere. He has availed himself of a multitude of educational endeavors, social programs, and work opportunities in order to 'solve his own problems,' to include earning multiple degrees; and accumulating hundreds of hours of vocational training. As a result, he has gained ready skills for the community, to include a college education; forklift and tire work certifications; computer and library skills; hospice experience; and ministry.

Additionally, in reviewing his many letters of support, those *professionals* who have worked with Mr. Kelsey during the course of his incarceration described him as: "an asset...to society;" "sincere, empathic, caring;" "remorseful;" "passionate in his commitment to God;" "volunteers for countless tasks;" "does an exceptional job;" "expresses deep regret and remorse for his actions;" "dependable, honest, courteous, and responsible;" "accepts responsibility for all the pain he has caused;" "is known to go above and beyond his assigned duties;" "quiet humble demeanor...consistently respectful, cheerful and hardworking;" "respectful, kind and gracious;" "served with humility and faithfulness;" "the kind of man I would want for a neighbor;" "an outstanding leader;" "selfless;" "very reliable and trustworthy;" "hardworking, self-motivated and quiet;" "expressed to me great remorse;" "has certainly rehabilitated himself;" "has displayed exemplary patience, understanding and compassion;" "I would hire him again;" "I can honestly say he was remorseful;" "superlative student;" "shown excellent character;" "respectful and helpful attitude;" "humble learner;" "gentle and unassuming;" "valued employee;" and "a fine example of rehabilitation in prison."

Furthermore, SCDC correctional staff interviewed indicate he has made a very positive adjustment, and they reported no hesitation regarding his potential release on parole.

**Risk Assessment:** In consideration of the Board's parole criteria of, "*the risk that the offender poses to the community,*" Mr. Kelsey was assessed using an empirically validated risk assessment measure (HCR-20<sup>v3</sup>). This measure consists of 20 risk variables, within Historical, Clinical and Risk Management domains. Results indicate Mr. Kelsey is at low risk for future violent recidivism. Primary contributing factors to the homicide offense are no longer valid or present, which primarily involved his immaturity, youthfulness, and attendant characteristics of impulsivity, recklessness, and poor future orientation. Additionally, his age of 42 further reduces his risk, as youthful offenders account for the majority of violent crime. Mr. Kelsey also has a very strong transition plan in place, with a ready place to live, employment, financial support and strong social support. Such stability is a powerful mitigator against future violence, and further supports a finding of 'low' risk.

The Board's parole criteria of, "***The offender's physical, mental, and emotional health***" was also considered in assessing his risk. Mr. Kelsey is clinically stable, and without symptoms of mental disorder. He has no history of mental health treatment during his incarceration. Records indicate he is in good medical health, with no treatment indicated at the present time.

**Transition Plan:** The Board's parole criteria: "***The adequacy of the offender's overall parole plan, including his proposed residence and employment,***" was considered. Mr. Kelsey has proposed to reside with his fiancé, in her home, in Augusta, Georgia. She is well-established, having lived in the area for 33 years, and is employed as the Assistant Executive Director and Dean of Students at a local military college. Her family resides within several miles, which would provide more structure and support.

*[Note: Given that their relationship primarily developed during Mr. Kelsey's incarceration, it was initially approached with skepticism. Information from collateral sources was sought to better understand the dynamic. Her mother was contacted, who had also been initially skeptical. She has since visited Mr. Kelsey many times over the years, and has observed their relationship develop. She believes from her close observations that it is a real, and genuine commitment. Their marriage counselor was also contacted, as they have engaged in premarital counseling sessions. He vouched for the genuine nature of the relationship, and for Ms. Montgomery's sincerity and stability, whom he has known for years. He further noted that Mr. Kelsey and Ms. Montgomery knew each other prior to the offense, which provided additional evidence of a genuine relationship. Additionally, their high school guidance counselor, who knew both as teenagers, and has known Ms. Montgomery for many subsequent years, vouched for the sincerity, stability and authentic nature of Ms. Montgomery and their commitment. Finally, Mr. Kelsey's entire family has met Ms. Montgomery at least once, and in some cases, multiple times. They too vouched for the sincerity and stability of their relationship, citing enthusiastic approval for their proposed marriage plans.]*

For work, Mr. Kelsey has been offered full-time employment at Lambert Logistics, Inc., which is akin to a courier/delivery company, and which he can start immediately. He and his fiancé plan to marry shortly upon his release, and find a church community in the local area, which would provide additional support.

**Family Circle:** Finally, in consideration of the Board's criteria: "***The willingness of the offender's family to allow the offender, if he is paroled, to return to the family circle,***" the examiner spoke with Mr. Kelsey's mother, father, stepmother, two older brothers, older sister, twin sister, fiancé and fiancé's mother. They would all welcome Mr. Kelsey back into the 'family circle,' providing him psychosocial, financial, emotional and spiritual support. His fiancé and her mother are also excited to welcome him into their extended family. It should be noted that he has been offered multiple residences in several states, given his family's commitment to his release.

In sum, Mr. Kelsey exhibits the requisite clinical stability for successful community reintegration, with a low risk of future violence, and a secure transition plan.

Respectfully Submitted



Susan C. Knight, Ph.D., ABPP  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Board-Certified Forensic Psychologist

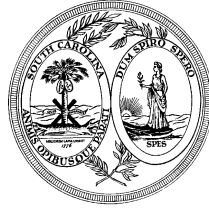
October 24, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

# Exhibit 4

State of South Carolina  
Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services

**HENRY McMASTER**  
Governor



**JODI D. GALLMAN**  
Acting Director

293 Greystone Boulevard  
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Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
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www.dppps.sc.gov

November 30, 2023

Mr. Joseph Kelsey #00217218  
Broad River Correctional Institution  
4460 Broad River Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: NOTICE OF REJECTION

Dear Mr. Kelsey:

It is my responsibility to inform you, on behalf of the South Carolina Parole Board, that the Board has reached a decision regarding your parole hearing. The Board hereby makes the following CONCLUSION OF LAW:

After careful consideration of: (1) the characteristics of your current offense(s), prior offense(s), prior supervision history, prison disciplinary record, and/or prior criminal record, as described in the findings of fact below; (2) the factors published in Department Form 1212 (Criteria for Parole Consideration); (3) the factors outlined in Section 24-21-640 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and (4) actuarial risk and needs assessment factors pursuant to Section 24-21-10 (F) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The Parole Board had determined that your parole must be denied.

You will be notified 30 days prior to your next scheduled parole consideration date.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

01 Nature And Seriousness Of Current Offense  
03 Use Of Deadly Weapon In This Or Previous Offense  
04 Criminal Record Indicates Poor Community Adjustment  
Vote Count: Unanimous To Reject

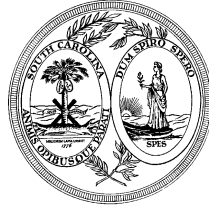
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Suber".

Valerie Suber  
Associate Deputy Director for Paroles, Pardons and Release Services

**State of South Carolina**  
**Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services**

**HENRY McMASTER**  
Governor



**JODI D. GALLMAN**  
Acting Director

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April 24, 2024

Mr. Joseph Kelsey #00217218  
Broad River Correctional Institution  
4460 Broad River Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: NOTICE OF REJECTION

Dear Mr. Kelsey:

It is my responsibility to inform you, on behalf of the South Carolina Parole Board, that the Board has reached a decision regarding your parole hearing. The Board hereby makes the following CONCLUSION OF LAW:

After careful consideration of: (1) the characteristics of your current offense(s), prior offense(s), prior supervision history, prison disciplinary record, and/or prior criminal record, as described in the findings of fact below; (2) the factors published in Department Form 1212 (Criteria for Parole Consideration); (3) the factors outlined in Section 24-21-640 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and (4) actuarial risk and needs assessment factors pursuant to Section 24-21-10 (F) (1) of the South Carolina Code of Laws. The Parole Board had determined that your parole must be denied.

You will be notified 30 days prior to your next scheduled parole consideration date.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

01 Nature And Seriousness Of Current Offense  
02 Indication Of Violence In This Or Previous Offense  
03 Use Of Deadly Weapon In This Or Previous Offense  
Vote Count: 3 Rejected - 2 Parole

Sincerely,

Valerie Suber  
Associate Deputy Director for Paroles, Pardons and Release Services

**RECEIVED**

**May 02 2024**

**SC Court of Appeals**

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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Appeal From The Administrative Law Court  
Honorable Ralph K. Anderson, III, Administrative Law Judge

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Appellate Case No. 2022-000965

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JOSEPH KELSEY, # 217218.....APPELLANT,

V.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES.....RESPONDENT.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of Appellant’s Motion to Supplement the Record was served on opposing counsel by email at the address provided in the Attorney Information System:

Matthew C. Buchanan  
General Counsel, S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, & Pardon Services  
matthew.buchanan@ppp.sc.gov

Service was made on May 2, 2024.

/s/ Allison Franz  
Allison Franz  
Justice 360  
900 Elmwood Ave., Suite 200  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 765-1044  
allison@justice360sc.org