Comparison of Sirhan Sirhan and Menendez Brothers Factors for Rehabilitation

Factor	Sirhan Sirhan	Erik Menendez	Lyle Menendez
Age at time of analysis:	77 years old (in Jan 2022)	54 years old (in March 2025)	57 years old (in March 2025).
Time served in Prison/Jail:	54 years	35 years	35 years
Diminished physical capacity (2025)	Yes	None	None
Education (pre-offense)	High school diploma, some community college	High school diploma	High school diploma, two years at Princeton University
Childhood abuse/background	Lived through armed conflict until age 12	Allegations of physical, emotional and sexual abuse	Allegations of physical, emotional and sexual abuse
Arrests, dispositions, sentences (pre-offense)	None	Arrested for multiple residential burglaries, received diversion	Arrested for multiple residential burglaries
Gravity of offense/jury convictions	First-degree pre-meditated murder, assault with intent to murder 5 add'l people	Conspiracy to murder and first-degree pre-meditated murders, with special circumstances	Conspiracy to murder and first-degree pre-meditated murders, with special circumstances
Sentence	Death Penalty (later changed by Supreme Court to life with possibility of parole; life without possibility of parole not an option at that point)	Life without the possibility of parole	Life without the possibility of parole
Rehabilitative Programs (in prison)	Comprehensive involvement in rehabilitative programs	Comprehensive involvement in rehabilitative programs	Comprehensive involvement in rehabilitative programs
Education (in prison)	Earned Associate of Arts degree, vocational training certificates	Earned multiple Associate of Arts degrees and is currently enrolled in UC Irvine	Earned Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Irvine
Subsequent growth and maturity (in prison)	Engaged in substantial self-help programming and educational opportunities	Engaged in substantial self-help programming and educational opportunities	Engaged in substantial self-help programming and educational opportunities
Classification Score (inmate security level)	19 (lowest possible)	19 (lowest possible)	19 (lowest possible)
CA Static Risk Assessment (predictive of recidivism)	Low	Low	Low
Rules violations reports (in prison)	2 (last one in 1972)	9 (last one in 2021)	8 (last one in 2024)
Letters of support from prison officials/victim family members	Multiple (including three of nine living victim family members)	Multiple (including all living victim family members aside from one)	Multiple (including all living victim family members aside from one)
Exhibit full insight and accept complete responsibility for crimes	Deficient "The most glaring evidence of Mr. Sirhan's deficient insight is his shifting narrative . . . and his current refusal to accept responsibility."	Deficient To this day, Erik has never admitted that he and Lyle fabricated a story of self-defense that their parents were going to kill them and recruited others to lie on their behalf.	Deficient To this day, Lyle has never admitted that he and Erik fabricated a story of self-defense that their parents were going to kill them and recruited others to lie on their behalf.
Parole	Denied 15 times; Governor reversed grant of parole 16th time based on risk of danger to community	Not applicable	Not applicable