

Diagnoses of John Ferguson's Mental Illness Since 1965

Date		Details			
Year	Month and Day	Doctor/Reporter	Type	Comments	Diagnoses
1965	2-Nov	W.H.. Winkie	Florida State Prison Psychologist	Ferguson reported as having visual hallucinations.	No diagnosis made.
1971	16-Jul	Paul S. Jarrett	Court-Appointed	Ferguson has a "severely damaged ability to distinguish right from wrong." Dr. Jarret's impression that "he should have psychiatric confinement." Records visual and auditory hallucinations.	Paranoid Schizophrenic
1971	22-Jul	Charles Mutter	Court-Appointed	Ferguson is "suffering from a major mental disorder which prevents him from aiding counsel." Dr. Mutter "[r]ecommended that he be committed to a state hospital."	Paranoid Schizophrenic
1973					
1973	2-Feb	Charles Mutter	Court-Appointed	Dr. Mutter concluded that Ferguson was "actively hallucinating." Noted "evidence of marked autism." Ferguson had "deteriorated to a psychotic state after his return from the state hospital." Dr. Mutter recommended long-term psychiatric treatment.	Paranoid Schizophrenic, Incompetent
1973	8-Feb	Albert Jaslow	Court-Appointed	Ferguson was "psychotic and incompetent and required additional hospitalization and treatment."	Actively psychotic, Incompetent
1974					
1974	15-Jan	William Corwin	Court-Appointed	"[A]ppears grossly psychotic and unimproved, despite his hospitalizations and continued medications."	Psychosis, schizophrenia, of a chronic nature
1974	18-Mar	William Corwin	Court-Appointed	"[P]resently incapable of answering the charges against him." Dr. Corwin also states his opinion that "at the time of the alleged offense with which he is charged he did not know right from wrong nor the nature and consequences of his acts."	Psychosis, schizophrenia, of a chronic nature
1975					
1975	5-Mar	Arthur Stillman	Court-Appointed	Ferguson "does not know right from wrong.... And is certainly presently insane and incompetent." "The degree of irrationality coupled with a rather impulsive, explosive and aggressive nature makes him a rather dangerous person both to himself and to others so that he could not contend with the stresses of day to day living."	Paranoid Schizophrenic, Incompetent

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1975	12-Mar	Charles Mutter	Court-Appointed	Dr. Mutter's opinion that Ferguson "is suffering from a major mental disorder and is extremely dangerous to himself and others. He is dangerous to the point where he is considered homicidal.... He should be in a maximum security ward.... He should not be released under any circumstances."	"Major mental disorder"
1975	18-Apr	Charles Mutter	Court-Appointed	Follow up from previous visit: states that Ferguson is "making very little progress towards becoming mentally competent.... He has a long-standing, severe illness which will most likely require long-term, inpatient hospitalization. This man is dangerous and cannot be released under any circumstances."	"Severe illness", incompetent
1975	29-Apr	Arthur Stillman	Court-Appointed	"Paranoidally disturbed person with many somatic delusions and many ideas of a rather bizarre and persecutory nature."	Paranoid Schizophrenic, incompetent
1978					
1978	14-Jun	Robert Moore	Court-Appointed	Ferguson's tests showed "some elements associated with schizophrenia. The total clinical picture suggests an active psychotic process involving delusions and inability to maintain a logical progression of thought." "[I]f he was faking his symptoms Mr. Ferguson played them well."	Possible psychosis
1978	15-Aug	Arthur Stillman	Attorney-Appointed	"Demonstrates evidence of active psychosis." "Difficulty in assisting his attorney... his capacity to stand trial seems somewhat minimal."	Paranoid Schizophrenic, Incompetent
1978	15-Aug	Jeffrey Elenewski	Attorney-Appointed	Ferguson expressed fear that his attorney would turn out to be a devil. "[I]ncompetency appears to be of a long standing nature, and the prognosis for this man becoming competent is guarded to poor."	Paranoid Schizophrenic, Incompetent
1978	21-Aug	Syvil Marquit	Attorney-Appointed	Ferguson "lives in a world of his own in which other persons don't count as people." "He should be considered chronically ill." "At the time of the alleged offense... he probably did not know right from wrong and the nature and consequences of the act, having been prevented from this by the presence of a very severe mental illness."	Paranoid Schizophrenic, partial remission with psychopathic tendencies; "very severe mental illness"

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1978	No date	Laura A. Parado	Appears to be employed by the Florida State Prison	Notes that Ferguson is "expressing delusion of a persecutory and religious nature and admits to auditory hallucinations."	Paranoid Schizophrenic, alcohol remission, Antisocial Personality Disorder
1986					
1986	12-Sep	Laura A. Parado; Eduardo Infante	Florida State Prison Record	Ferguson is "incompetent to go into any kind of hearing or court, because [he] doesn't even know who a judge is; he doesn't know the name of his lawyer he is working with."	Incompetent to participate in clemency interview
1986	15-Sep	Laura A. Parado	Florida State Prison Record	Ferguson was "suspicious of medication being used to poison him." Does "not know anything about the clemency hearing."	Paranoid Schizophrenic
1986	10-Oct	Unknown	Florida State Prison Record	"Does not know what the word clemency means." "Paranoid delusions of a persecutory nature."	Schizophrenic, undifferentiated, chronic with paranoid features
1987					
1987	2-Oct	Laura Parado	Florida State Prison Record	"[Mr. Ferguson] does not know his lawyer's name and has only a vague idea of what a lawyer's function is."	Schizophrenia, Paranoid, Chronic, Not Competent
1987	2-Oct	Laura Parado; F.O. Alcantara	Florida State Prison Record	"[T]he inmate is not sane and not competent at present time."	Schizophrenia, Paranoid, Chronic, Not Competent
1988					
1988	14-Jan	Jeffrey Elenewski	Attorney-Appointed	"The current clinical picture is that of a deeply disturbed individual who is actively psychotic." "[F]unctioning with borderline to retarded intellectual ability."	Paranoid Schizophrenic Disorder
1988	25-Jan	Arthur Stillman	Attorney-Appointed	Ferguson "certainly has deteriorated from the times he had been seen in the past by the undersigned." He is "incompetent and insane, does not know right from wrong, nor the nature or consequences of his behavior."	Paranoid Schizophrenia, Findings of organic brain syndrome
1988	30-Jan	James Merikangas	Attorney-Appointed	"Ferguson is currently psychotic and suffering from a neurologic condition."	Psychotic, suffering from a neurological condition and incompetent to assist counsel
1988	17-Jun	William Corwin	Court-Appointed	"[H]is condition is such that it would be difficult for his attorneys to work with him, and would thus have to be considered incompetent."	Schizophrenic type of illness, shown signs of psychosis
1988	15-Jul	William Corwin	Court-Appointed	Recommending a "more intense" treatment, including higher dosage of medication. "[H]e may indeed need to be kept in some institution on a permanent basis."	Schizophrenia

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1991					
1991	7-Feb	Robert Bell; Eduardo Infante	Admission to The DOC Mental Health Institution; Issued by Superintendent of Florida State Prison	Ferguson was "very delusional, hallucinating, poor memory, not well oriented."	Paranoid Schizophrenia
1991	30-Jul	Harry Albert McClaren; James Phillips	Recommendation of Re-Commitment to the DOC Mental Health Institution	"Given Mr. Ferguson's continued probable psychotic symptoms including delusional thinking and probable hallucinations, indications are that a further period of inpatient psychiatric care is necessary to prevent harm to himself or others."	Schizophrenia, Paranoid, Chronic
1991	19-Nov	Harry Albert McClaren	Florida State DOC	"Mr. Ferguson is now suffering from chronic schizophrenia, paranoid type; has suffered from this disease for many years, probably as early as 1971; and his present competency to assist his counsel in legal proceedings is questionable at best."	Paranoid Schizophrenia
1992					
Throughout 1992		Various attending physicians	Florida State DOC	"Schizophrenia," "Paranoid Type," "Chronic"	Schizophrenic, Paranoid, Chronic
1993					
Throughout 1993		Various attending physicians	Florida State DOC	Documenting continuing symptoms.	Schizophrenic, Paranoid, Chronic
1994					
Throughout 1994		Various attending physicians	Florida State DOC	Documenting continuing symptoms.	Schizophrenic, Paranoid, Chronic
1994	21-Jul	Jorge Herrera	Attorney-Appointed	Impaired ability to understand the "adversarial nature of the legal process... and the punishment by death to which he has been sentenced."	Paranoid Schizophrenia, Incompetent
1994	2-Aug	Edwin Birch; Lois Stevens; James Phillips	Admission to DOC Mental Health Institution	"[P]oorly nourished." Credits discontinuation of medication to delusions preventing nourishment.	Paranoid Schizophrenia, Chronic Orthropoea
1994	18-Aug	James Phillips	Admission to The DOC Mental Health Institution Issued by Superintendent of Florida State Prison	Ferguson's "mental illness poses a real and present threat of substantial detriment to his well-being, and/or to the safety of others."	Paranoid Schizophrenia
1995					
Throughout 1995		Various attending physicians	Florida State DOC	Documenting continuing symptoms.	Schizophrenic, Paranoid, Psychosis, Chronic

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1995	12-Jan	Trat Vu; Angela Nathaniel; Norma Torres	Mental health Institution Discharge Plan	Notes that in June 1994, Ferguson began to "show symptoms of moderate tardive dyskinesia and his medication was reduced to half... and the Trilafon was discontinued." As a result, Ferguson stopped eating his food due to delusions that it was poisoned. He "lost approximately twenty-two pounds over a two week period."	Paranoid Schizophrenia, Chronic Orthropoea
1995	16-Mar	Alec Whyte	Attorney-Appointed	"[T]here are indications that his illness is on a chronic deteriorating course with reoccurrences of acute episodes becoming gradually more frequent and mentally disabling."	Paranoid Schizophrenia, Incompetent
1996					
Throughout 1996		Various attending physicians	Florida State DOC	Documenting continuing symptoms.	Schizophrenic, Paranoid, Psychosis, Chronic
1997					
Throughout 1997		Various attending physicians	Florida State DOC	Documenting continuing symptoms.	Paranoid Schizophrenic, Delusional
1998					
Throughout 1998		Various attending physicians	Florida State DOC	Documenting continuing symptoms.	Paranoid Schizophrenic, Delusional
1999					
1999	January and February (Mr. Ferguson began refusing evaluation and treatment in March 1999).	L. Wiley	DOC Individualized Service Plan	Documenting continuing symptoms.	Paranoid Schizophrenic
2004					
2004	27-Feb	Deposition of Lisa D. Wiley	State Witness	Noting that a doctor would not prescribe antipsychotic medication if he didn't think the patient was mentally ill -- if he was malingering.	n/a
2004	3-Oct	James Merikangas	Attorney-Appointed	Noting nearly "40 years of documented diagnoses and treatment of severe psychiatric disease." Schizophrenia "is not curable."	Chronic Paranoid Schizophrenia, Incompetent
2004	3-Oct	Richard Filson	Attorney-Appointed	No evidence of malingering. Ferguson is "floridly psychotic, paranoid, withdrawn, morose and depressed."	Chronic Paranoid Schizophrenia, Incompetent