TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

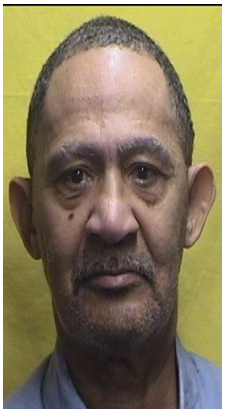
Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

PAROLE UPDATE: July 28, 2026

CASE FILE: IGNACIO PALMA, convicted of wife's murder

Guilty infractions after guilty infractions in 2026, 2025 and 2024 … underscore the continuing dangerousness of this man…It is unimaginable that this man should be released from prison back to Trumbull County or anywhere else in this country or planet earth, Prosecutor Watkins says



AGE: 67 (DOB 7/31/1958)

INCARCERATED: Marion Correctional Institution

SENTENCED: 18 years to life on convictions of murder, felonious assault and inciting violence. Sentenced on Nov. 10, 1994, by former Trumbull County Judge W. Wyatt McKay. Palma was convicted of the May 4, 1994, slaying of his wife Vivian Chancellor, 42.

PAROLE HEARING: August 2026 (last hearing was in 2021)

THE CRIME: On May 4, 1994, Palma called Chancellor home from her job as prison guard at Trumbull Correctional Institution, saying her grandchild was ill. Earlier that day, Palma had been drinking and told a witness he was going to kick out Chancellor, because he had read letters to her from another man who wanted Chancellor to leave Palma. The same witness had observed a shotgun sitting up against the wall and told Palma not to do anything stupid. Later that day, Warren city police received a call from Palma stating he had just killed his wife. Officers went to the home where they found Ms. Chancellor slumped over in a chair with a fatal 12-guage shotgun wound to the head.

Prosecutors noted Palma's propensity for anger by describing an incident at the Trumbull County jail as he awaited trial. He and another cellmate were told they had to move to another cell, and Palma threw chemicals in the faces of jail officers and bruised their arms.

While in prison, Palma displayed inappropriate behavior with a newly hired female staff member. Twice in 2014, Palma was involved in a physical altercation with another inmate. Prosecutor Dennis Watkins noted that Palma's recent prison infraction record since his last parole hearing in 2021, has not improved.

“Guilty infractions after guilty infractions in 2026, 2025 and 2024 in prison underscore the continuing dangerousness of this man,” Watkins writes in his most recent letter to the parole board. “It is unimaginable that this man should be released from prison back to Trumbull County or anywhere else in this country or planet earth.”

While sitting in an April 2026 disciplinary session with prison authorities, inmate Palma was very agitated and started getting loud in making threats toward another inmate. Palma said: “I’m doing life, I don’t care. You (expletive). Don’t let me out, I will kill that dude. I got life. Don’t leave me here, I will kill the (expletive).”

Watkins also notes that his program training and community service activity has allowed Palma to be able to train dogs, plant flowers, do gardening and know something about “crayons to computers.” Watkins states: “Nevertheless, in reviewing his bad behavior history, Palma in my opinion, cannot escape his continuing record of being a con artist/sociopath when it comes to living with real people in the real world – his temper will always get in the way.”

Former Assistant Prosecutor Diane Barber wrote the board in 2007 that “Due to the fact that Mr. Palma has shown such propensity to violence and an inability to control his actions… We strongly recommend that you keep Mr. Palma incarcerated for the entire sentence imposed by the court.”

“So, whether it is our letters of 2007, 2016, or today, the Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office and the surviving victim’s family consistently and strongly maintain the view that inmate Palma should serve his full life sentence to ensure adequate punishment and protect the public from future crime … I don’t believe I have ever witnessed a more fearless, daring, and highly creative approach to parole release by an inmate while being disciplined in prison than Palma. He is saying to corrections officials, parole me or I will kill a fellow inmate. He says he has nothing to lose if he kills in prison since he is serving a life sentence anyways. This jerk is in prison for brutally murdering a defenseless woman – and has been rehabilitated beyond belief with programs – yet they have not been effective, which means in my mind, Ignacio Palma, after 36 years, IS NOT SUITABLE FOR RELEASE ON PAROLE AT THIS TIME OR EVER.”

■ **Prosecutor Dennis Watkins**

Members of the public may submit comments about the potential parole of Ignacio Palma. Comments can be made through the ODRC website: https://drc.ohio.gov/systems-and-services/1-parole/parole-board-hearing-input For more information, contact Guy Vogrin, investigator / public information officer, Trumbull County Prosecutor’s Office, 330-675-2485.