

Sentence Review Division  
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SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA, ) Cause No. DC-17-093  
)  
Plaintiff, ) Lincoln County District Court  
)  
-vs- ) Montana Nineteenth Judicial District  
)  
SARAH LOUISE CARPENTER SKINNER, ) **DECISION**  
)  
Defendant. )

On October 15, 2018, the Defendant was sentenced as follows: Count I: Life Without Parole for the offense of Deliberate Homicide, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-102 MCA; and Count II: Ten (10) years to the Montana Women’s Prison for the offense of Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence, a felony, in violation of § 45-7-207 MCA. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently with one another. The Defendant received credit for time served of four hundred seventeen (417) days by reason of prior incarceration as of the date of sentencing. Restitution was ordered in the amount of \$2,491.00.

On April 7, 2023, the Defendant's Application for review of that sentence came on for hearing by Zoom videoconference before the Sentence Review Division of the Montana Supreme Court (hereafter “the Division”). The Defendant appeared from the Montana Women’s Prison and was represented by Teal Mittelstadt, Defense Counsel. The State was not represented. The Defendant gave a statement. Greg Carpenter, father of the Defendant, and Amy Carpenter, sister of the Defendant, were present and gave statements. Mary Littlefield, friend of Greg Carpenter, was present but did not give a statement.

Before the hearing on the Application, the Defendant was advised that the Division has the authority not only to reduce the sentence or affirm it, but also to increase it. The Defendant was further advised that there is no appeal from a decision of the Division. The Defendant acknowledged that she understood this and stated that she wished to proceed.

Rule 12, Rules of the Sentence Review Division of the Supreme Court of Montana, provides that, "The sentence imposed by the District Court is presumed correct. The sentence shall not be reduced or increased unless it is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive." (Section 46-18-904(3), MCA).

The Division finds that the reasons advanced for modification are insufficient to hold that the sentence imposed by the District Court is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive.

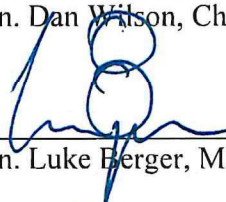
Therefore, it is the unanimous decision of the Division that the sentence is AFFIRMED.

DATED this 24th day of April, 2023.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Dan Wilson, Chair



Hon. Luke Berger, Member



Hon. Jessica Fehr, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 24th day of April, 2023, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*  
Sarah Louise Carpenter Skinner #3025053  
Hon. Matt Cuffe – *via email*  
Teal Mittelstadt, Defense Counsel – *via email*  
Marcia Boris, County Attorney – *via email*  
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*  
MWP - Records Dept. – *via email*



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Shelly Smith, Office Administrator  
Sentence Review Division