

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

STATE OF MONTANA,) Cause No. DC-32-2020-0000689-IN
)
 Plaintiff,) Missoula County District Court
)
-vs-) Montana Fourth Judicial District
)
CHRISTOPHER LANCE NEWRIDER,) **DECISION**
)
 Defendant.)

On June 8, 2022, the Defendant was sentenced to a commitment to the Montana State Prison for a period of twenty (20) years for the offense of Count I: Negligent Homicide, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-104(1), MCA, to run consecutively to DC-18-569. The Defendant was given credit for time served in the amount of 547 days. The Court further imposed a ten (10) year parole restriction and waived all fines and fees.

On May 5, 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 State Prison and was represented by Sadie Busch, Defense Counsel. The State was not represented.

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

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 concluded that the sentence imposed by the District Court is clearly excessive.

Therefore, it is the unanimous decision of the Division that the sentence shall be **MODIFIED** to remove the parole restriction of ten (10) years. The sentence, terms and conditions imposed in the Judgment of June 8, 2022 are not clearly excessive and are affirmed.

DATED this 16 day of May, 2023.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Dan Wilson, Chair



Hon. Luke Berger, Member



Hon. Jessica Fehr, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 17th day of May, 2023, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
Christopher Lance Newrider #2119039, Defendant
Hon. Robert Deschamps – *via email*
Sadie Busch, Defense Counsel – *via email*
Mark Handelman, Deputy Co. Attorney - *via email*
Mac Bloom, Deputy Co. Attorney – *via email*
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*
MSP - Records Dept. – *via email*



Shelly Smith, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division