

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

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA,) Cause No. DC-56-2014-0000010-IN
)
Plaintiff,) Yellowstone County District Court
)
-vs-) Montana Thirteenth Judicial District
)
RICHARD DOUGLAS REINERT,)
) **DECISION**
)
Defendant.)

On August 13, 2015, the Defendant was sentenced to the Montana State Prison for One Hundred (100) years, for the offense of Count I: Deliberate Homicide, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-102(1)(a), MCA, with an additional ten (10) years, to run consecutively for Weapons Enhancement. The Defendant was ordered to pay \$3,500.00 restitution to the Crime Victim’s Compensation Program. The Defendant received credit for time spent in pre-trial incarceration from December 22, 2013 to June 6, 2014; and March 6, 2015 to August 13, 2015.

On February 1, 2024, 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 Penelope Strong, Defense Counsel. The State was represented by Ed Zink. The Defendant gave a statement.

Richard and Jane Reinert (father & mother of Defendant) were present but did not give a statement. Greg Titus (father of Danielle Titus [ex-wife of Defendant]) was present but did not give a statement. The following attendees were present from the County Attorney’s Office but did not provide statements: Brad & Cheri Stephenson (stepfather & mother of victim); Terry & Al French (stepmother & father of victim); Cassi & Cory Bowman (sister & brother-in-law of victim); Harlie & Carson Kane (sister & brother-in-law of victim); Doug French (uncle of victim); Tim Kaczmarek (uncle of victim), Gary & Dorothy Holbrook (maternal grandparents of victim); and Suzy Steffanich (aunt of victim).

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.

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 9th day of February, 2024.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Luke Berger, Chair

Hon. Jessica Fehr, Member

Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 12th day of February, 2024, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
Richard Douglas Reinert #3016727, Defendant
Hon. Mary Jane Knisely – *via email*
Penelope Strong, Defense Counsel – *via email*
Ed Zink, Deputy County Attorney – *via email*
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*
MSP - Records Dept. – *via email*



Shelly Smith, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division