

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

STATE OF MONTANA,)	Cause No. DC-41-2022-0000225-IN
)	
Plaintiff,)	Ravalli County District Court
-vs-)	
)	Montana Twenty-First Judicial District
RONAN ELIAS STERLING-SHANAHAN,)	
)	DECISION
)	
Defendant.)	

On September 6, 2023, the Defendant was sentenced as follows:

Charge I: Twenty (20) years at a state prison to be designated by the Department of Corrections, for the offense of Negligent Homicide, a felony, in violation of §§45-5-104 & 45-4-103, MCA;

Charge II: Ten (10) years at a state prison to be designated by the Department of Corrections for the offense of Tampering with Physical Evidence, a felony, in violation of §45-7-207(1)(a), MCA. The sentence shall run consecutively to Charge I.

The Court ordered a parole restriction of twenty (20) years. Additionally, the Court placed a parole restriction that the Defendant successfully complete mental health treatment, specific to addressing his personality disorders. The Defendant was given credit for 326 days already served.

On November 14, 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 Saguaro Correctional Facility and was represented by Dave Merchant, Defense Counsel. The State was represented by William Fulbright.

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.

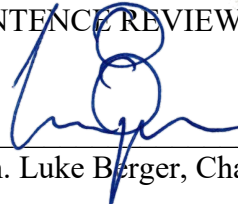
Rule 12, Rules of the Sentence Review Division of the Supreme Court of Montana, provides that, "The sentence imposed by the District Court is presumed correct. The sentence shall not be reduced or increased unless it is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive." (Section 46-18-904(3), MCA).

The Division 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.

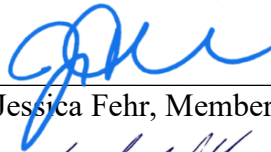
Therefore, it is the unanimous decision of the Division that the sentence is AFFIRMED.

DATED this 26th day of November, 2024.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Luke Berger, Chair



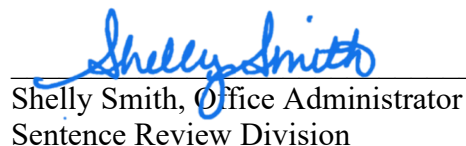
Hon. Jessica Fehr, Member



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 26th day of November, 2024, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
Ronan Elias Sterling Shanahan #3035133, Defendant
Hon. Jennifer Lint – *via email*
Dave Merchant, Defense Counsel – *via email*
William Fulbright, County Attorney – *via email*
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*
MSP - Records Dept. – *via email*



Shelly Smith, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division