

Sentence Review Division  
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**FILED**

**NOV 16 2022**

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-22-004  
)  
Plaintiff, ) Chouteau County District Court  
-vs- )  
) Montana Twelfth Judicial District  
STEVEN WADE GRIFFITH, )  
) **DECISION**  
)  
Defendant. )

On June 7, 2022, the Defendant was sentenced to the Department of Corrections for a term of five (5) years, for the offense of Count I: Illegal Transfer to an Incarcerated Person by Accountability, a Felony, in violation of §45-7-307(1)(a), MCA, to run consecutively to DC 21-10, on the condition that the Defendant be placed under the supervision of the Department of Corrections, subject to all rules and regulations of the Adult Probation and Parole Bureau. The Defendant was given credit for 69 days of time served. The Court dismissed Counts II and III.

On November 3, 2022, 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 Butte Pre-Release and was represented by Sadie Busch, Defense Counsel. District Court Judge, Kaydee Snipes-Ruiz was present but did not provide a statement. The State was not represented. The Defendant gave a statement.

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 15th day of November, 2022.

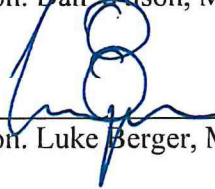
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Jessica Fehr, Chair



Hon. Dan Wilson, Member



Hon. Luke Berger, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 16th day of November, 2022, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*  
Steven Wade Griffith #3030409, Defendant  
Hon. Kaydee Snipes-Ruiz – *via email*  
Sadie Busch, Defense Counsel – *via email*  
Steven A. Gannon, Esq. – *via email*  
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*  
MSP - Records Dept. – *via email*



Shelly Smith, Office Administrator  
Sentence Review Division