

Sentence Review Division
301 S. Park Ave., Suite 328
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Phone: (406) 841-2976
Email: shellysmith@mt.gov

FILED
02/26/2025
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION
OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA,) Cause No. DC-41-2015-0000199
)
Plaintiff,) Ravalli County District Court
)
-vs-) Montana Twenty-First Judicial District
)
GEORGE WILLIS CROOKS,) **DECISION**
)
Defendant.)

On July 25, 2024, the Court found the Defendant in violation of the terms and conditions of his sentence, revoked the sentence, and sentenced the Defendant as a Persistent Felony Offender, pursuant to §§46-18-501, et. seq., MCA, for a period of thirty (30) years, with twenty (20) years suspended, at a state prison to be designated by the Department of Corrections, for the offense of Charge I: Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs, 4th or Subsequent Offense, a Felony, in violation of §61-8-401, MCA. The Defendant was given credit for 910 days street time. All the reasons stated in the underlying Judgment dated March 3, 2017 were incorporated herein by reference.

On February 6, 2025, 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 Sarah Kottke, Defense Counsel. The State was not represented. The Defendant provided 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

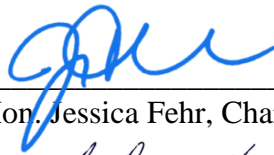
not be reduced or increased unless it is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive." (Section 46-18-904(3), MCA).

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 26th day of February, 2025.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Jessica Fehr, Chair



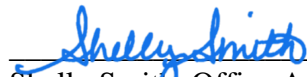
Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Member



Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 26th day of February, 2025, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
George Willis Crooks #3007075, Defendant
Hon. Jennifer Lint – *via email*
Sarah Kottke, 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