

Sentence Review Division  
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**FILED**  
**08/14/2025**  
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-56-2020-0001434
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	Yellowstone County District Court
-vs-	)	
	)	Montana Thirteenth Judicial District
MATTHEW JASON WELCH,	)	
	)	<b>DECISION</b>
	)	
Defendant.	)	

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On January 23, 2025, the Court Amended the Judgment of June 23, 2023, to correct the restitution amounts imposed in Counts IV and XI.

Count I: Ten (10) years to the Montana State Prison, with Five (5) years suspended, to run consecutively to DC-20-0107 and all other sentences, for the offense of Deceptive Practices, (Common Scheme), a Felony, in violation of §45-6-317, MCA.

Count II: Ten (10) years to the Montana State Prison, with Five (5) years suspended, to run consecutively to Count I, for the offense of Deceptive Practices, (Common Scheme), a Felony, in violation of §45-6-317, MCA.

Count III: Three (3) years to the Montana State Prison to run consecutively to Counts I and II, for the offense of Deceptive Practices, (Common Scheme), a Felony, in violation of §45-6-317, MCA.

Count IV: Ten (10) years to the Montana State Prison, with Five (5) years suspended, to run consecutively to Counts I - III, for the offense of Theft by Deception, a Felony, in violation of §45-6-301(2)(a), MCA.

Count V: Three (3) years to the Montana State Prison to run consecutively to Counts I - IV, for the offense of Theft by Deception, a Felony, in violation of §45-6-301(2)(a), MCA

Count VI: Three (3) years to the Montana State Prison to run consecutively to Counts I - V, for the offense of Deceptive Practices, (Common Scheme), a Felony, in violation of §45-6-317, MCA.

Count VII: Ten (10) years to the Montana State Prison, with Five (5) years suspended, to run consecutively to Counts I - VI, for the offense of Deceptive Practices, (Common Scheme), a Felony, in violation of §45-6-317, MCA.

Count IX: Ten (10) years to the Montana State Prison, with Five (5) years suspended, to run consecutively to Counts I - VII, for the offense of Deceptive Practices, (Common Scheme), a Felony, in violation of §45-6-317, MCA.

Count X: Three (3) years to the Montana State Prison to run consecutively to Counts I – VII and Count IX, for the offense of Theft by Deception, a Felony, in violation of §45-6-301(2)(a), MCA.

Count XI: Ten (10) years to the Montana State Prison, with Five (5) years suspended, to run consecutively to Counts I – VII and Counts IX – X, for the offense of Theft by Deception, a Felony, in violation of §45-6-301(2)(a), MCA.

It was further ordered that the Defendant pay restitution in the total amount of One Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$102,000.68) and was assessed a 10% administration fee on all restitution ordered.

The Defendant was ordered to successfully complete the Cognitive Principle & Restructuring Program. The Defendant was given credit for time spent in pre-trial incarceration as follows: October 26, 2020 through October 29, 2020; June 15, 2021 through July 7, 2021; and November 23, 2021 through March 1, 2022. The Defendant remained in custody from his original sentencing date of March 1, 2022 through June 20, 2023. The State's oral motion to dismiss Count VIII: Deceptive Practices, a Felony, was granted. The Defendant was ordered to write letters of apology to the victims in this criminal cause.

On August 7, 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 Kotke, Defense Counsel. 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.

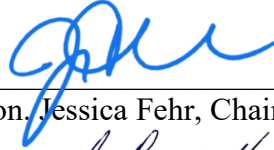
Therefore, it is the unanimous decision of the Division that the sentence is AFFIRMED.

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DATED this 14th day of August, 2025.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Jessica Fehr, Chair



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Member



Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 14th day of August, 2025, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*

Matthew Jason Welch #3007624, Defendant

Hon. Donald Harris – *via email*

Sarah Kottke, Defense Counsel – *via email*

Margaret Gallagher, Deputy Co. Attorney – *via email*

Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*

MSP - Records Dept. – *via email*



Dia C. Lang, Office Administrator  
Sentence Review Division