

Sentence Review Division
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FILED
2/25/2026
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION
OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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STATE OF MONTANA,) Cause Nos. DC-47-2025-0000031
) DC-47-2024-0000034
Plaintiff,)
-vs-) Butte-Silver Bow County District Court
)
CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY GAROFALO,) Montana Second Judicial District
)
) **DECISION**
Defendant.)

On October 2, 2025, the Defendant was sentenced to five (5) years to the Montana State Prison, none suspended, for the offense of Count I: Criminal Distribution of Dangerous Drugs, by Accountability, resulting in death, a Felony, in violation of §§45-9-101 and 45-2-302, MCA 2023. The Defendant would not be eligible for parole for the term of the sentence. The sentence was ordered to run concurrent with DC-24-315 and concurrent to any other sentence the Defendant may be serving at the time of sentencing in the two matters. The Defendant received credit for 350 days of jail time served in the matter.

On February 5, 2026, 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 did give 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 2026.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Chair



Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member



Hon. Jeffrey Dahood, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 26th day of February 2026, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
Christopher Anthony Garofalo #3039798, Defendant
Hon. Frank J. Joseph – *via email*
Sarah Kottke, Defense Counsel – *via email*
Angie Rolando, Esq – *via email*
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*
MSP - Records Dept. – *via email*



Dia C. Lang, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division