

Sentence Review Division
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FILED
2/26/2026
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-47-2015-0000127
)
Plaintiff,) Butte-Silver Bow County District Court
)
-vs-)
) Montana Second Judicial District
JAMES JEROME MORRISON, JR.,)
) **DECISION**
)
Defendant.)

On December 22, 2016, the Defendant was sentenced in Count I: twenty (20) years to the Montana State Prison, with twelve (12) years suspended. The Court ordered the Defendant ineligible for parole or release from prison until he completed the Sexual Offender Program (SOP) Phases I and II at Montana State Prison. The Court further ordered the Defendant designated as a Tier II or Moderate Risk to Reoffend. The Defendant was given credit for time served in the amount of 536 days.

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 Teal Mittelstadt, 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*
Morrison, Jr., James Jerome #3019947, Defendant
Hon. Frank J. Joseph – *via email*
Teal Mittelstadt, Defense Counsel – *via email*
Ellen Donahue, County Attorney – *via email*
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*
MSP - Records Dept. – *via email*



Dia C. Lang, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division