

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

**FILED**  
**3/6/2026**  
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-56-2016-0000910  
)  
Plaintiff, ) Yellowstone County District Court  
-vs- )  
) Montana Thirteenth Judicial District  
DALLAS WADE CRANFORD, )  
) **DECISION**  
Defendant. )  
)

---

The Defendant was originally sentenced to the Montana Department of Corrections for a term of 20 years, with 15 years suspended, for the offense of Sexual Assault, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-502, MCA, on September 19, 2017. The State filed a petition to revoke his suspended sentence on March 11, 2025. On July 31, 2025, the District Court found the Defendant violated the terms and conditions of his suspended sentence, revoked the suspended sentence, and re-sentenced him pursuant to §46-18-203, MCA to the Department of Corrections for 15 years, with none of that time suspended. The Court recommended screening and placement at a prerelease center. The Court awarded elapsed time credit from September 16, 2022, through August 31, 2024, and from September 16, 2022, and credit for time served in custody from February 5, 2025, through February 7, 2025.

On February 6, 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 STEP Treatment Center and was represented by Carl Jensen, 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. The Defendant did not give a statement.

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 concluded that the sentence imposed by the District Court is clearly excessive because the available record and the reasons for the sentence set forth in the judgment did not justify imposing a 15-year unsuspended sentence for the violations that were found.

Therefore, it is the unanimous decision of the Division that the sentence shall be **REDUCED** to 15 years to the Department of Corrections with 10 years suspended. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Pursuant to 46-18-904(3), MCA, the District Court shall resentence the Defendant in accordance with the Sentence Review Division's Decision and file an Amended Judgment.

DATED this 6th day of March 2026.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



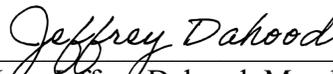
---

Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Chair



---

Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member



---

Hon. Jeffrey Dahood, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 6th day of March 2026, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*  
Dallas Wade Cranford #3021693, Defendant  
Hon. Mary Jane Knisely – *via email*  
Britt Cotter, Defense Counsel – *via email*  
Autumn Thompson-Irish, 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