

Sentence Review Division
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FILED
5/20/2026
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION
OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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STATE OF MONTANA,) Cause Nos. DC-42-2024-0000054
) DC-42-2023-0000087
Plaintiff,)
) Richland County District Court
)
-vs-) Montana Seventh Judicial District
)
JASON RAY JOHNSON,) **DECISION**
)

Defendant.

On July 30, 2025, the Court found the Defendant violated the terms and conditions of his deferred sentence, revoked the deferred sentence, and sentenced him as follows: Count I: Five (5) years to the Montana State Prison, none suspended, for the offense of Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs, Methamphetamine, a Felony, in violation of §45-9-102(1), MCA. Count II: Ten (10) years to the Montana State Prison, with five (5) years suspended for the offense of Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence, a Felony, in violation of §45-7-207, MCA. Count II to run concurrently with Count I. The Defendant was given 152 days' credit for jail time served. On July 30, 2025, the Defendant was sentenced five (5) years, with none suspended, to the Montana State Prison for the offense of Count I: Strangulation of Partner or Family Member, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-215, MCA. The sentence was ordered to run consecutively with Defendant's Richland County Case DC-42-2023-87. The Defendant was entitled to 155 days of credit for jail time served. The Defendant should not knowingly have any contact, oral, written, electronic or through a third party, with [L.C.] (the victim(s) and/or the victim's immediate family) unless such contact was voluntarily initiated by the victim(s) through the Department of Corrections.

On May 7, 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 Crossroads Correctional Facility and was represented by Teal Mittelstadt. The State was not represented. The Defendant did provide 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 20th day of May, 2026.

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Chair




Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member



Hon. Jeffrey Dahood, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 20th day of May, 2026, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
Jason Ray Johnson #2136972, Defendant
Hon. Scott Herring – *via email*
Teal Mittelstadt
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Helena, MT 59624, Defense Counsel – *via email*
Charity McLarty, County Attorney – *via email*
Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*
Montana State Prison - Records Dept. – *via email*



Dia C. Lang, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division