

Sentence Review Division
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FILED
5/27/2026
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-56-2024-0001649
)
Plaintiff,) Yellowstone County District Court
)
) Montana Thirteenth Judicial District
-vs-)
) **DECISION**
MORGANN DEAN VANDAELE,)
)
Defendant.)

On November 18, 2025, the Defendant was sentenced as follows: Count I: Five (5) years to Montana State Prison for the offense of Intimidation, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-203(1)(c), MCA. Count II: Five (5) years to Montana State Prison for the offense of Assault with Weapon, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-213(1)(b) MCA, to run consecutive to Count I. Count VI: Five (5) years to Montana State Prison for the offense of Partner or Family Member Assault – Bodily Injury with Weapon – 3rd or Subsequent Offense, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-206(1)(a), MCA, to run consecutive to Counts I and II. Count VII: Five (5) years to Montana State Prison for the offense of Partner or Family Member Assault – Bodily Injury with Weapon – 3rd or Subsequent Offense, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-206(1)(a), MCA, to run concurrently with Count VI. Pursuant to §46-18-202(2), MCA, the Court imposed a ten (10) year parole restriction. The Defendant received credit for time spent in pre-trial incarceration as follows: December 19, 2024 through November 18, 2025. The State’s oral motion to dismiss Counts III, IV, V and VIII was granted. The Defendant was ordered to not knowingly have any contact, oral, written, electronic or through a third party, with J.L.K. (the victim and/or the victim’s immediate family) unless such contact was voluntarily initiated by the victim through the Department of Corrections.

On May 8, 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 Lane Bennett, Esq, Defense Counsel. The State was not represented. The Defendant did not 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 27th day of May, 2026.

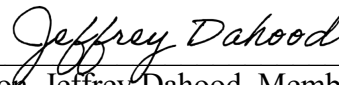
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Chair



Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member



Hon. Jeffrey Dahood, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 27th day of May, 2026, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
Morgann Dean Vandaele #3038098, Defendant
Hon. Ashley Harada – *via email*
Lane Bennett, Esq, Defense Counsel – *via email*
Jesse Erickson, Deputy City 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