

Sentence Review Division
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FILED
4/10/2026
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-7-2019-0000826
)
Plaintiff,) Cascade County District Court
)
) Montana Eighth Judicial District
-vs-)
) **DECISION**
STEPHANIE GRACE BYINGTON,)
)

Defendant.

On July 26, 2022, the Defendant was sentenced as follows: Amended Count I: One hundred (100) years, to the Montana State Women’s Prison, with zero (0) years suspended, and no eligibility for parole for the first thirty (30) years, for the offense of Accountability to Deliberate Homicide, a Felony, in violation of §§45-5-301 and 45-5-102(1)(b), MCA. Count III: Ten (10) years, to the Montana State Women’s Prison, with zero (0) years suspended, and no eligibility for parole, for the offense of Criminal Child Endangerment, a Felony, in violation of §45-5-628(1)(a), MCA, to run consecutive to Amended Count I. The Defendant was granted credit for 980 days of time served. The Court ordered Counts II and IV be dismissed.

On April 3, 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 Riverside Facility and was represented by Dave Merchant, 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 she understood this and stated that she wished to proceed.

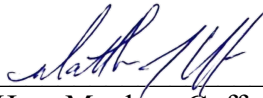
Rule 12, Rules of the Sentence Review Division of the Supreme Court of Montana, provides that, “The sentence imposed by the District Court is presumed correct. The sentence shall not be reduced or increased unless it is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive.” (Section 46-18-904(3), MCA).

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.

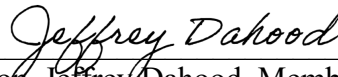
Therefore, it is the unanimous decision of the Division that the sentence is AFFIRMED.

DATED this 10th day of April 2026.


SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Chair



Hon. Jeffrey Dahood, Member



Hon. Jessica Fehr, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 10th day of April, 2026, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*

Stephanie Grace Byington #3011062, Defendant

Hon. Elizabeth Best – *via email*

Dave Merchant, Esq., Defense Counsel – *via email*

State Office of the Public Defender Kory Larsen, Deputy Co. Attorney – *via email*

Board of Pardons and Parole – *via email*

Montana Women’s Prison – Records Dept. – *via email*



Dia C. Lang, Office Administrator
Sentence Review Division