Sentence Review Division
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**FILED**
10/14/2026
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION
OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

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| STATE OF MONTANA, | ) | Cause No. DC-22-2024-0000036 |
| | ) | |
| Plaintiff, | ) | Jefferson County District Court |
| -vs- | ) | |
| | ) | Montana Fifth Judicial District |
| CHRISTINA L. BUSSARD, | ) | |
| | ) | **DECISION** |
| | ) | |
| Defendant. | ) | |

On September 9, 2025, the Defendant was sentenced in Count 1 per the plea agreement. The Defendant received credit for 20 days previously served. On April 1, 2026, the Court found the Defendant violated the terms and conditions of her sentence, revoked the sentence, and sentenced her to three (3) years commitment to the Department of Corrections, none suspended, for the offense of Count I: Theft, a Felony, in violation §45-6-301(1)(a)(c), MCA, and a recommendation for Elkhorn TX Center. The Defendant received credit for 48 days previously served. All previous amounts (fees/charges) were reimposed. The Defendant was given credit for any amounts previously paid.

On September 18, 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 Passages Women's Center and was represented by Lane Bennett, Esq, 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 she understood this and stated that she wished to proceed.

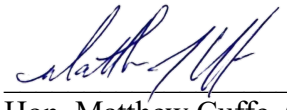
Rule 12, Rules of the Sentence Review Division of the Supreme Court of Montana, provides that, "The sentence imposed by the District Court is presumed correct. The sentence shall not be reduced or increased unless it is clearly inadequate or clearly excessive." (Section 46-18-904(3), MCA).

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 14th day of October 2026.

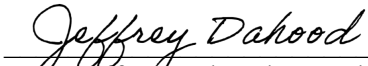
SENTENCE REVIEW DIVISION



Hon. Matthew Cuffe, Chair



Hon. Christopher Abbott, Member



Hon. Jeffrey Dahood, Member

Copies mailed or emailed this 14th day of October 2026, to:

Clerk of District Court – *via email*
Christina L. Bussard #3039533, Defendant
Hon. Luke Berger – *via email*
Lane Bennett, Esq, Defense Counsel – *via email*
Andrew W. Paul, Chief 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