

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
) 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 COUNTY OF LEXINGTON)
) AM 8:51
 2025 DEC -4)
 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) ORDER REGARDING RECONSIDERATION
) OF SENTENCE
 vs.)
)
 William Jonathan Cripps,) Indictment No.: 2021GS3203866
 Defendant.)
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)
)

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Dec 23 2025
SC Court of Appeals

On July 31, 2023, the Defendant appeared before this Court and entered a plea of guilty to one (1) count of Felony driving under the influence, death results. The State dismissed the Defendant's remaining charges as part of the plea. The plea was for a negotiated five (5) to twenty (20) year active sentence. The Court accepted the Defendant's plea of guilty and sentenced the defendant to eighteen (18) years in the in the South Carolina Department of Corrections and pay a fine of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), giving the Defendant credit for his pretrial detention. A motion to reconsider was filed by the defense on August 7, 2023. Defendant filed a Memo in Support of the Motion to Reconsider on May 30, 2025. The State filed a Memorandum in Opposition to Reconsideration of Sentence on June 5, 2025.

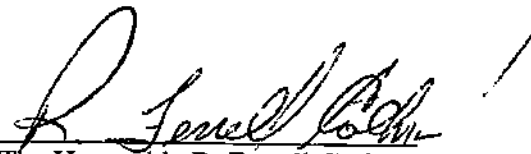
The eighteen (18) year sentence was within the negotiated range and was appropriate to the facts of the case. On Tuesday, June 29, 2021, the Defendant was driving a GMC Yukon, towing a trailer with a riding mower, west on Edmund Highway in Lexington County. Edmund Highway is a four (4) lane highway that has a painted median. At approximately 8:40 PM, the Defendant's vehicle crossed the median and into the lane on travel of twenty (20) year old, Andrew Day causing a head on collision. Mr. Day was pronounced deceased as a result of the injuries suffered in the collision. These

injuries included blunt force trauma to the face and head, multiple fractures, and an aortic transection. Mr. Day's passenger, seventeen (17) year old Shelby Duncan suffered injuries that included nasal fractures, a fracture of the left clavicle, and a bone-deep laceration to the scalp the required numerous stitches which left Ms. Duncan with scarring. Toxicology records support that the Defendant was under the influence of methamphetamine and fentanyl at the time of the collision.

During the plea hearing, the Court made the affirmative finding that the Defendant had a full understanding of the consequences of his plea and the charge against him and made an intelligent and voluntary waiver of his constitutional rights. The Court made a finding that he was satisfied with his counsel. Furthermore, the Court made a finding that there was a sufficient factual basis for the plea.

After reviewing the filing in the above referenced case concerning the defendant's Motion to Reconsider Sentence, the defendant's motion is respectfully denied. The State recommended a five (5) to twenty (20) year sentence for the judge to consider in July of 2023, having the option of two treatment facilities available at the time of sentencing would not have impacted his decision given the mandatory jail time required with a Felony DUI resulting in Death guilty plea.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.


The Honorable R. Ferrell Cothran, Jr.
Circuit Court Judge

July 14, 2025
Manning, SC