

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

No. DA 23-0305

STATE OF MONTANA,

Plaintiff and Appellee,

vs.

NEIL DENNIS COLE,

Defendant and Appellant.

**UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
WITH AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT**

COMES NOW, Chad Wright, Appellate Defender for the Appellate Defender Division, and respectfully requests an extension of time until March 13, 2024, in which to prepare, file, and serve the Appellant's opening brief in the above-entitled matter. This is Appellant's seventh request for an extension. Appellant's opening brief was first due August 14, 2023. Appellant's opening brief is currently due February 12, 2024. Appellant submits the attached affidavit in support of this motion.

Opposing counsel has been contacted and has no objection.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of February 2024.

OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER
APPELLATE DEFENDER DIVISION
P.O. Box 200147
Helena, MT 59620-0147

By: /s/ Chad Wright
CHAD WRIGHT
Appellate Defender

[illegible]

I, Chad Wright, in compliance with M. R. App. P. 26(2), declare:

1. I am a licensed, practicing attorney in the State of Montana,
and I am currently employed by the Appellate Defender Division,
(ADD), as the Appellate Defender Division Administrator.

2. ADD has now filled its open vacancy and continues to use more contract attorneys to address its backlog. I am attempting to identify which ADD or contract attorney is best able to assume responsibility for the above-entitled appeal given the attorney's individual caseload.

3. Additional time will be needed for assigned counsel to be able to provide effective assistance of counsel.

4. Opposing counsel has been contacted concerning this motion and does not object.

/s/ Chad Wright
Chad Wright, Helena, MT

February 5 2024
Date

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Chad M. Wright, hereby certify that I have served true and accurate copies of the foregoing Motion - Unopposed to the following on 02-05-2024:

Austin Miles Knudsen (Govt Attorney)
215 N. Sanders
Helena MT 59620
Representing: State of Montana
Service Method: eService

Kirsten H. Pabst (Govt Attorney)
200 W. Broadway
Missoula MT 59802
Representing: State of Montana
Service Method: eService

Electronically signed by Stefanie Moore on behalf of Chad M. Wright
Dated: 02-05-2024