

# MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED 2015

## IMPORTANT

THIS IS **NOT** THE MOST CURRENT MCA  
THE **2017 MCA** IS AVAILABLE HERE.  
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS.

[Previous Section](#)   [MCA Contents](#)   [Part Contents](#)   [Search](#)   [Help](#)   [Next Section](#)

**46-18-201. Sentences that may be imposed.** (1) (a) Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, a sentencing judge may defer imposition of sentence, except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, for a period:

(i) not exceeding 1 year for a misdemeanor or for a period not exceeding 3 years for a felony; or

(ii) not exceeding 2 years for a misdemeanor or for a period not exceeding 6 years for a felony if a financial obligation is imposed as a condition of sentence for either the misdemeanor or the felony, regardless of whether any other conditions are imposed.

(b) Except as provided in [46-18-222](#), imposition of sentence in a felony case may not be deferred in the case of an offender who has been convicted of a felony on a prior occasion, whether or not the sentence was imposed, imposition of the sentence was deferred, or execution of the sentence was suspended.

(2) Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, a sentencing judge may suspend execution of sentence, except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, for a period up to the maximum sentence allowed or for a period of 6 months, whichever is greater, for each particular offense.

(3) (a) Whenever a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, a sentencing judge may impose a sentence that may include:

(i) a fine as provided by law for the offense;

(ii) payment of costs, as provided in [46-18-232](#), or payment of costs of assigned counsel as provided in [46-8-113](#);

(iii) a term of incarceration, as provided in Title 45 for the offense, at a county detention center or at a state prison to be designated by the department of corrections;

(iv) commitment of:

(A) an offender not referred to in subsection (3)(a)(iv)(B) to the department of corrections, with a recommendation for placement in an appropriate correctional facility or program; however, all but the first 5 years of the commitment to the department of corrections must be suspended, except as provided in [45-5-503](#)(4), [45-5-507](#)(5), [45-5-601](#)(3), [45-5-602](#)(3), [45-5-603](#)(2)(b), and [45-5-625](#)(4); or

(B) a youth transferred to district court under [41-5-206](#) and found guilty in the district court of an offense enumerated in [41-5-206](#) to the department of corrections for a period determined by the court for placement in an appropriate correctional facility or program;

- (v) with the approval of the facility or program, placement of the offender in a community corrections facility or program as provided in [53-30-321](#);
  - (vi) with the approval of the prerelease center or prerelease program and confirmation by the department of corrections that space is available, placement of the offender in a prerelease center or prerelease program for a period not to exceed 1 year;
  - (vii) chemical treatment of sexual offenders, as provided in [45-5-512](#), if applicable, that is paid for by and for a period of time determined by the department of corrections, but not exceeding the period of state supervision of the person; or
  - (viii) any combination of subsections (2) and (3)(a)(i) through (3)(a)(vii).
- (b) A court may permit a part or all of a fine to be satisfied by a donation of food to a food bank program.
- (4) When deferring imposition of sentence or suspending all or a portion of execution of sentence, the sentencing judge may impose upon the offender any reasonable restrictions or conditions during the period of the deferred imposition or suspension of sentence. Reasonable restrictions or conditions imposed under subsection (1)(a) or (2) may include but are not limited to:
- (a) limited release during employment hours as provided in [46-18-701](#);
  - (b) incarceration in a detention center not exceeding 180 days;
  - (c) conditions for probation;
  - (d) payment of the costs of confinement;
  - (e) payment of a fine as provided in [46-18-231](#);
  - (f) payment of costs as provided in [46-18-232](#) and [46-18-233](#);
  - (g) payment of costs of assigned counsel as provided in [46-8-113](#);
  - (h) with the approval of the facility or program, an order that the offender be placed in a community corrections facility or program as provided in [53-30-321](#);
  - (i) with the approval of the prerelease center or prerelease program and confirmation by the department of corrections that space is available, an order that the offender be placed in a prerelease center or prerelease program for a period not to exceed 1 year;
  - (j) community service;
  - (k) home arrest as provided in Title 46, chapter 18, part 10;
  - (l) payment of expenses for use of a judge pro tempore or special master as provided in [3-5-116](#);
  - (m) with the approval of the department of corrections and with a signed statement from an offender that the offender's participation in the boot camp incarceration program is voluntary, an order that the offender complete the boot camp incarceration program established pursuant to [53-30-403](#);
  - (n) participation in a day reporting program provided for in [53-1-203](#);
  - (o) participation in the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program provided for in Title 44, chapter 4, part 12, for a violation of [61-8-465](#), a second or subsequent violation of [61-8-401](#), [61-8-406](#), or [61-8-411](#), or a second or subsequent violation of any other statute that imposes a jail penalty of 6 months or more if the abuse of alcohol or dangerous drugs was a contributing factor in the commission of the crime or for a violation of any statute involving domestic abuse or the abuse or neglect of a minor if the abuse of alcohol or dangerous drugs was a contributing factor in the commission of the crime regardless of whether the charge or conviction was for a first, second, or subsequent violation of the statute;
  - (p) participation in a restorative justice program approved by court order and payment of a participation fee of up to \$150 for program expenses if the program agrees to accept the offender;
  - (q) any other reasonable restrictions or conditions considered necessary for rehabilitation or for the protection of the victim or society; or
  - (r) any combination of the restrictions or conditions listed in subsections (4)(a) through (4)(q).
- (5) In addition to any other penalties imposed, if a person has been found guilty of an offense upon a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere and the sentencing judge finds that a victim, as defined in [46-18-243](#), has sustained a pecuniary loss, the sentencing judge shall, as part of the sentence, require payment of full restitution to the victim, as provided in [46-18-241](#) through [46-18-249](#), whether or not any part of the sentence is deferred or suspended.
- (6) In addition to any of the penalties, restrictions, or conditions imposed pursuant to subsections (1) through (5), the sentencing judge may include

the suspension of the license or driving privilege of the person to be imposed upon the failure to comply with any penalty, restriction, or condition of the sentence. A suspension of the license or driving privilege of the person must be accomplished as provided in [61-5-214](#) through [61-5-217](#).

(7) In imposing a sentence on an offender convicted of a sexual or violent offense, as defined in [46-23-502](#), the sentencing judge may not waive the registration requirement provided in Title 46, chapter 23, part 5.

(8) If a felony sentence includes probation, the department of corrections shall supervise the offender unless the court specifies otherwise.

(9) As used in this section, "dangerous drug" has the meaning provided in [50-32-101](#).

**History:** En. 95-2206 by Sec. 1, Ch. 196, L. 1967; rep. and re-en. by Sec. 31, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 36, Ch. 184, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 436, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 580, L. 1977; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 584, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 95-2206(1), (2), (4); amd. Sec. 21, Ch. 116, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 322, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 587, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 198, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 207, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 415, L. 1981; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 189, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 581, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 205, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 524, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 104, Ch. 370, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 610, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 626, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 293, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 575, L. 1989; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 42, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 105, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 554, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 564, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 794, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 802, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 65, Ch. 10, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 43, Ch. 262, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 365, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 579, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 125, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 394, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 407, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 482, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 214, Ch. 546, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 181, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 189, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 322, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 341, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 375, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 525, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 52, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 395, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 432, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 505, L. 1999; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 258, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 272, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 437, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 52, Ch. 449, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 517, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 483, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 2009; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 318, L. 2011; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 153, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 177, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 309, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 374, L. 2013; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 55, L. 2015; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 285, L. 2015.