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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: July 18, 2023

**JUDGE DENIES CONVICTED KILLER'S
MOTION FOR MODIFICATION OF SENTENCE**

Muncie Indiana – Earlier today, Delaware Circuit Court No. 2 Judge Kimberly Dowling denied a Motion for Sentence Modification filed by convicted murderer Matt Stidham (DOB 4/24/1973). Stidham was convicted of a brutal murder. The facts most favorable to the convictions are as follows:

On the night of February 23, 1991, appellant and several of his friends, including the decedent in this case, drove to the decedent's apartment where they drank whiskey and played guitars. They eventually started "trading punches." This evidently started as horseplay, but grew into an angry encounter between appellant and the decedent.

As the fight escalated, the others joined with appellant in beating the decedent. Not only did they beat and kick the decedent, but they also struck him with a wooden club. They then loaded much of the decedent's electronic equipment into his van, gagged him, placed him in the back of the van and drove off. They eventually arrived at a secluded area near the Mississinewa River where the decedent was removed from the van, and again beaten and stabbed some forty-seven times before his body was thrown into the river. After visiting with friends, who they told of the killing, appellant and his associates drove into the State of Illinois where they were arrested.

Stidham v. State, 637 N.E.2d 140, 142 (Ind. 1994). Prosecuting Attorney Eric Hoffman has said numerous times that "as long as I am Prosecutor in Delaware County, I will not agree to a reduction of a violent criminal's sentence. Violent offenders must serve every minute of their sentence. The mere passage of time does not erase the pain and suffering inflicted at the hands of violent criminals. Nor does it lessen the risk that the person will commit another heinous crime."

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