

RACHEL H. MITCHELL
MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Peter J Christensen, Bar ID #: 036136
Deputy County Attorney
225 W Madison St, 2nd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85003
Telephone: (602) 372-0473
trldiv@mcao.maricopa.gov
MCAO Firm #: 00032000
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

THE STATE OF ARIZONA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ARLENA M WILLES,

Defendant.

CR2019-005397-001

RESPONSE TO MOTION TO
RECONSIDER PETITION FOR EARLY
TERMINATION OF PROBATION

(Assigned to the Honorable Geoffrey H
Fish, Div. CRJ26)

Defendant Arlena M. Willes motion to reconsider should be denied due to the nature of the underlying offense and her noncompliance with the terms of her probation.

Willes was convicted by a jury of two counts of Child/VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE-INTENT, Class 2 Felonies and was sentenced to ten years of supervised probation.

Per the pre-sentence report, the author stated that:

By neglecting to listen to medical professionals, the defendant exposed her son to an agonizing amount of pain and discomfort, and could have cost him his life. He required at least three different surgeries, which may have been preventable had she followed through with the medical advice and treatment plan given to her. Thankfully DCS was able to intervene and take the victim out of her custody, which may have saved his life.

Thus far Willes has completed only two years of her probation grant. Probation submitted a Memo to the Court on June 26, 2023. In the memo, the Probation Officer Maribel McAlpin detailed her reasons for opposing early termination grant. Included in those reasons was the short amount of time Willes has served on probation.

Officer McAlpin's Memo discusses Willes failure to abide by term 22 of her probation, which requires her to complete a MH evaluation, plus any recommended treatment. Willes contends that she received Mental Health evaluations while in jail and underwent counseling with Mr. Ted Sellers at New Life Community Church. Willes further contends that this was done with the permission and understanding of her prior Probation Officer Alyson Papalardo.

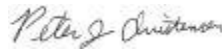
However, Officer McAlpin notes in her memo that the documentation she received from Mr. Sellers lacks a date or any information relating to the credentials of the letter which is mentioned therein. Officer McAlpin concludes her memo by opposing early termination of Wille's probation grant.

The State concurs with probation. If Willes did indeed complete a Mental Health Evaluation and any subsequent treatment, more verifiable evidence is needed. This is a serious case, and it is fortunate that things did not turn out worse than they did. Willes conduct could have resulted in the death of the victim and subjected the victim to needless pain and suffering. While the State recognizes the progress Willes has made thus far on probation, she must comply with all of the terms of her grant.

The State respectfully requests that Willes motion be denied due to failure to comply with the terms of probation, the severe nature of the underlying offense and for the limited time spent on supervised probation.

Submitted October ___, 2023.

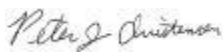
RACHEL H. MITCHELL
MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

BY: 
/s/ Peter J Christensen
Deputy County Attorney

Copy mailed/delivered October ___, 2023, to:

The Honorable Geoffrey H Fish
Judge of the Superior Court

Ronald M. Debrigida, Jr
Debrigida Law Offices, Plc
18205 N 51st Ave Ste 123
Glendale, AZ 85308
rblaw@cox.net
Attorney for Defendant

BY: 
/s/ Peter J Christensen
Deputy County Attorney

PC