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MEMORANDUM

To: People entitled to resentencing under *Czarnecki* and *Taylor*
From: Jessica Zimbelman, Deputy Director, Public Defender Division
Date: March 5, 2026
Subject: Updates on resentencing proceedings and the appointment of lawyers

SADO mailed an unredacted version of this memo to everyone entitled to resentencing who does not yet have a lawyer.

This memo is intended to update you regarding SADO's work to find lawyers for people for their resentencing hearings under *Czarnecki* and *Taylor*. It also shares new information now that the deadline for prosecutors to ask for life without parole has passed.

Appointment of lawyers

About 250 people still need lawyers for their resentencing hearings. SADO is working to find lawyers for everyone. We are giving priority to people who have been in prison the longest. Those who have served less time may need to wait longer for a lawyer. Sometimes people who have served less time may get a lawyer first. This can happen for reasons we cannot control. Even so, we are committed to finding a qualified lawyer for everyone as soon as possible.

For people SADO cannot represent because of conflicts, we are working with MAACS, local public defender offices, and pro bono lawyers at private law firms to find lawyers.

We want to be very clear: waiting for an appointed lawyer may take a long time. We will do everything we can to help find a lawyer for you as fast as possible. If you would like to hire a lawyer, you can feel free to do so. If you do, please let us know.

We understand that waiting can be very stressful. You may want to call SADO, but we are not always able to answer calls. We cannot answer legal questions if we are not your lawyers. We will do our best to communicate to you as soon as we have any updates.

Prosecutor motions

The deadline for prosecutors to ask for life without parole was January 5. Some prosecutors are filing motions that are "conditional," meaning they may not have fully reviewed each case yet and they may be willing to reconsider their motions. When you are appointed a lawyer, that

lawyer will be responsible for answering that motion and for analyzing whether there are legal issues to raise about the motion. If a prosecutor asks for life without parole, that is only the first step. There will still be chances to talk about a term-of-years sentence.

If you do not have a lawyer, the prosecutor should send the motion directly to you. SADO is tracking these motions, so feel free to send us a copy and we will save it. You do not need to respond to the motion if you do not have a lawyer. A flyer is included that explains this.

6.500 motions

You do not need to file a 6.500 motion to start the resentencing process. *Taylor* and *Czarnecki* say that other laws (MCL 769.25 and 769.25a) control the process.

Conclusion

The good news is that the resentencing hearings have started. We know this time is stressful and scary. We are committed to finding qualified lawyers and to keeping you informed as the process moves forward.