

# United States Court of Appeals For the First Circuit

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No. 20-1759

UNITED STATES,

Appellee,

v.

SAMUEL CAISON,

Defendant - Appellant.

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Before

Barron, Chief Judge,  
Lynch and Montecalvo, Circuit Judges.

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## JUDGMENT

Entered: February 9, 2023

Defendant-appellant Samuel Caison challenges the district court's imposition of a within-Guidelines sentence of 105 months' imprisonment on Caison's conviction, following a guilty plea, for violating 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2).

Before turning to the merits, certain preliminary matters must be addressed. First, Caison has filed in this court a motion captioned "Motion Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 . . ."; this appears to be a courtesy copy of a filing made in the district court, and we have construed the filing as such. Thus, this judgment does not address the claims set out in the motion.

Second, Caison has requested the appointment of new counsel, and, in response, counsel has filed a motion to withdraw. Good cause for the appointment of new counsel has not been shown, and the appointment of new counsel at this juncture would not be efficient or judicially economical. See United States v. Myers, 294 F.3d 203, 206 (1st Cir. 2002) ("Once a court appoints an attorney to represent an accused, a subsequent decision to replace that attorney is committed to the informed discretion of the appointing court. In exercising that authority, the court must take into account the totality of the circumstances then obtaining (including the need for economy and efficiency in the judicial process)."); see also United States v. Wyatt, 561 F.3d 49, 52 (1st Cir. 2009) (court generally does not allow pursuit of ineffective assistance claims on direct appeal). Accordingly, the requests for new counsel and to withdraw are denied, without prejudice to

counsel's filing of a post-judgment motion to withdraw consistent with 1st Cir. R. 46.5(c) and other applicable rules.

Turning to the merits, the points set out by Caison in his opening brief amount to a challenge(s) to the substantive reasonableness of the sentence imposed. We conclude that the district court's sentence was substantively reasonable under the circumstances and that the district court provided a "plausible sentencing rationale" and reached a "defensible result." United States v. Gomera-Rodriguez, 952 F.3d 15, 20 (1st Cir. 2020) ("Challenging a sentence as substantively unreasonable is a burdensome task in any case, and one that is even more burdensome where, as here, the challenged sentence is within a properly calculated GSR."). We note that Caison's challenge to the degree of explanation provided by the district court is inconsistent with the record and would fail under any standard. See United States v. Crespo-Rios, 787 F.3d 34, 37 n.3 (1st Cir. 2015) ("The lack of an adequate explanation can be characterized as either a procedural error or a challenge to the substantive reasonableness of the sentence.").

The government's motion for summary disposition is granted, and the judgment of the district court is affirmed. Any remaining motions, to the extent not mooted by the foregoing, are denied.

Affirmed. See 1st Cir. R. 27.0(c).

By the Court:

Maria R. Hamilton, Clerk

cc:

Jeffrey W. Langholtz  
Samuel Caison  
Andrew McCormack  
Benjamin M. Block  
Nicholas S. Heimbach

**United States District Court**  
**District of Maine**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

v.

SAMUEL CAISON

Case Number: 1:19-cr-152-LEW

USM Number: 39301-013

Verne E. Paradie, Jr. Esq.

Defendant's Attorney

**THE DEFENDANT:**

- ☒ pleaded guilty to count(s) 1 of the Indictment.  
☐ pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) \_\_\_\_\_ which was accepted by the court.  
☐ was found guilty on count(s) \_\_\_\_\_ after a plea of not guilty.

**The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:**

<u>Title &amp; Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Offense Ended</u>	<u>Count</u>
18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2)	Felon in Possession of a Firearm	April 22, 2020	1

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 7 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

- ☐ The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s) \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Count(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ is ☐ are dismissed on the motion of the United States.

It is ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant shall notify the court and United States attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

July 30, 2020

Date of Imposition of Judgment

/s/Lance E. Walker

Signature of Judge

Lance E. Walker, U.S. District Judge

Name and Title of Judge

July 31, 2020

Date Signed

DEFENDANT: SAMUEL CAISON  
CASE NUMBER: 1:19-cr-152-LEW

**IMPRISONMENT**

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 105 months.

- ☒ The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:  
The defendant for enrollment in the 500 Hour Comprehensive Drug Treatment Program.
- ☒ The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.
- ☐ The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:  
☐ at \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ a.m. ☐ p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.
- ☐ The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons.  
☐ before 2 p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ as notified by the United States Marshal.  
☐ as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

**RETURN**

I have executed this judgment as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Defendant delivered on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
a \_\_\_\_\_, with a certified copy of this judgment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
UNITED STATES MARSHAL

By \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

DEFENDANT: SAMUEL CAISON  
CASE NUMBER: 1:19-cr-152-LEW

**SUPERVISED RELEASE**

Upon release from imprisonment, you will be on supervised release for a term of: 3 years.

**MANDATORY CONDITIONS**

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two additional drug tests during the term of supervision, but not more than 120 drug tests per year thereafter, as directed by the probation officer.  
☐ The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. ☐ You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
5. ☒ You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
6. ☐ You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
7. ☐ You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

If this judgment imposes a fine or restitution, it is a condition of supervised release that the defendant pay in accordance with the Schedule of Payments of this judgment.

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

DEFENDANT: SAMUEL CAISON  
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### STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

#### U.S. Probation Office Use Only

A U.S. probation officer has instructed me on the conditions specified by the court and has provided me with a written copy of this judgment containing these conditions. For further information regarding these conditions, see *Overview of Probation and Supervised Release Conditions*, available at: [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov).

Defendant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION**

- 1) Defendant shall participate in mental health treatment, as directed by the supervising officer, until released from the program by the supervising officer. Defendant shall pay/co-pay for services during such treatment, to the supervising officer's satisfaction;
- 2) The Defendant shall inform any prescribing medical practitioner that he/she has a history of substance abuse and shall provide the supervising officer with written proof of such notice;
- 3) Defendant shall not use or possess any controlled substance, alcohol or other intoxicant; and shall participate in a program of drug and alcohol abuse therapy to the supervising officer's satisfaction. This shall include testing to determine if Defendant has used drugs or intoxicants. Defendant shall pay/co-pay for services during such treatment to the supervising officer's satisfaction. Defendant shall not obstruct or tamper, or try to obstruct or tamper, in any way, with any tests;
- 4) Defendant shall not own or possess any firearm or other dangerous weapon, or knowingly be at any time in the company of anyone known by the defendant to possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon; and
- 5) A United States probation officer may conduct a search of the defendant and of anything the defendant owns, uses, or possesses if the officer reasonably suspects that the defendant has violated a condition of supervised release and reasonably suspects that evidence of the violation will be found in the areas to be searched. Searches must be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation of release.

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**CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES**

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments on Sheet 6.

	<u>Count</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Restitution</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>AVAA</u> <u>Assessment *</u>	<u>JVTA Assessment **</u>
	1	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		
<b>Totals:</b>		\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		

☐ The determination of restitution is deferred until . An Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case (AO 245C) will be entered after such determination.

☐ The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Total Loss***</u>	<u>Restitution Ordered</u>	<u>Priority or Percentage</u>
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<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____
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☐ Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$

☐ The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 6 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).

☐ The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:

☐ the interest requirement is waived for the ☐ fine ☐ restitution.

☐ the interest requirement for the ☐ fine ☐ restitution is modified as follows:

\* Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-299.

\*\* Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-22.

\*\*\* Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.



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### SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties are due as follows:

- A ☒ Lump sum payment of \$100.00 due immediately, balance due  
☒ Any amount that the defendant is unable to pay now is due and payable during the term of incarceration. Upon release from incarceration, any remaining balance shall be paid in monthly installments, to be initially determined in amount by the supervising officer. Said payments are to be made during the period of supervised release, subject always to review by the sentencing judge on request, by either the defendant or the government.  
☐ not later than \_\_\_\_\_, or  
☐ in accordance with ☐ C, ☐ D, ☐ E, or ☐ F below; or
- B ☐ Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with ☐ C, ☐ D, or ☐ F below); or
- C ☐ Payment in equal (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ over a period of \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., months or years), to commence (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after the date of this judgment; or
- D ☐ Payment in equal (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly) installments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ over a period of \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., months or years), to commence (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after release from imprisonment to a term of supervision; or
- E ☐ Payment during the term of supervised release will commence within (e.g., 30 or 60 days) after release from imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time; or
- F ☐ Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during the period of imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are made to the clerk of the court.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

- ☐ Joint and Several

Case Number Defendant and Co-Defendant Names (including defendant number)	Total Amount	Joint and Several Amount	Corresponding Payee, if appropriate.
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- ☐ The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- ☐ The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
- ☐ The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) AVAA assessment, (5) fine principal, (6) fine interest, (7) community restitution, (8) JVTA assessment, (9) penalties, and (10) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.