

2012 Kansas Statutes

21-6620. Sentencing of certain persons to mandatory term of imprisonment of 40 or 50 years or life without the possibility of parole; determination; evidence presented; balance of aggravating and mitigating circumstances. (a) Except as provided in K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6618 and 21-6622, and amendments thereto, if a defendant is convicted of the crime of capital murder and a sentence of death is not imposed pursuant to subsection (e) of K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6617, and amendments thereto, or requested pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6617, and amendments thereto, the defendant shall be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

(b) If a defendant is convicted of murder in the first degree based upon the finding of premeditated murder, the court shall determine whether the defendant shall be required to serve a mandatory term of imprisonment of 40 years or for crimes committed on and after July 1, 1999, a mandatory term of imprisonment of 50 years or sentenced as otherwise provided by law.

(c) In order to make such determination, the court may be presented evidence concerning any matter that the court deems relevant to the question of sentence and shall include matters relating to any of the aggravating circumstances enumerated in K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6624, and amendments thereto, and any mitigating circumstances. Any such evidence which the court deems to have probative value may be received regardless of its admissibility under the rules of evidence, provided that the defendant is accorded a fair opportunity to rebut any hearsay statements. Only such evidence of aggravating circumstances as the state has made known to the defendant prior to the sentencing shall be admissible and no evidence secured in violation of the constitution of the United States or of the state of Kansas shall be admissible. No testimony by the defendant at the time of sentencing shall be admissible against the defendant at any subsequent criminal proceeding. At the conclusion of the evidentiary presentation, the court shall allow the parties a reasonable period of time in which to present oral argument.

(d) If the court finds that one or more of the aggravating circumstances enumerated in K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6624, and amendments thereto, exist and, further, that the existence of such aggravating circumstances is not outweighed by any mitigating circumstances which are found to exist, the defendant shall be sentenced pursuant to K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6623, and amendments thereto; otherwise, the defendant shall be sentenced as provided by law. The court shall designate, in writing, the statutory aggravating circumstances which it found. The court may make the findings required by this subsection for the purpose of determining whether to sentence a defendant pursuant to K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6623, and amendments thereto, notwithstanding contrary findings made by the jury or court pursuant to subsection (e) of K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 21-6617, and amendments thereto, for the purpose of determining whether to sentence such defendant to death.

History: L. 2010, ch. 136, § 260; L. 2011, ch. 30, § 70; July 1.