

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

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## DISTRICT II

September 3, 2025

*To*:

Hon. Samantha R. Bastil

Circuit Court Judge

Electronic Notice

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John Blimling
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Clerk of Circuit Court

Sheboygan County Courthouse Jasmaine Montrell Linton #389512 Electronic Notice Racine Correctional Inst.

> P.O. Box 900 Sturtevant, WI 53177-0900

You are hereby notified that the Court has entered the following opinion and order:

2024AP1620-CRNM State of Wisconsin v. Jasmaine Montrell Linton (L.C. #2022CF589)

Before Neubauer, P.J., Gundrum, and Grogan, JJ.

Summary disposition orders may not be cited in any court of this state as precedent or authority, except for the limited purposes specified in WIS. STAT. RULE 809.23(3).

Jasmaine Montrell Linton appeals from a judgment convicting him of first-degree reckless injury and first-degree recklessly endangering safety. His appellate counsel filed a no-merit report pursuant to Wis. Stat. Rule 809.32 (2023-24)<sup>1</sup> and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). Linton received a copy of the report, was advised of his right to file a response, and has elected not to do so. Upon consideration of the report and an independent review of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2023-24 version.

record, we conclude there are no issues with arguable merit for appeal. We summarily affirm the judgment. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

Linton was convicted following pleas<sup>2</sup> to first-degree reckless injury and first-degree recklessly endangering safety. The charges stemmed from an incident in which, after being escorted from a bar that was closing, Linton drove his vehicle at multiple bar employees, striking one, and nearly striking two others.<sup>3</sup> For his actions, the circuit court imposed an aggregate sentence of ten years of initial confinement and eight years of extended supervision. This no-merit appeal follows.

The no-merit report addresses whether Linton's pleas were knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently entered. The record shows that the circuit court engaged in a colloquy with Linton that satisfied the applicable requirements of Wis. Stat. § 971.08(1) and *State v. Brown*, 2006 WI 100, ¶35, 293 Wis. 2d 594, 716 N.W.2d 906. In addition, a signed plea questionnaire and waiver of rights form was entered into the record, along with the relevant jury instructions detailing the elements of the offenses. Finally, the court established that there was a strong factual basis to accept the *Alford* plea.<sup>4</sup> We agree with counsel that any challenge to the entry of Linton's pleas would lack arguable merit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Linton pled no contest to first-degree reckless injury. Meanwhile, he entered an *Alford* plea to first-degree recklessly endangering safety. *See North Carolina v. Alford*, 400 U.S. 25 (1970).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Additional counts of attempted first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree recklessly endangering safety were dismissed and read-in. The person who was struck by Linton's vehicle suffered a broken femur.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The *Alford* plea was also supported by a signed memo from Linton and his attorney, acknowledging the strong proof of guilt to the charge of first-degree recklessly endangering safety.

The no-merit report also addresses the propriety of Linton's sentence. The record reveals that the circuit court's sentencing decision had a "rational and explainable basis." *State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, ¶76, 270 Wis. 2d 535, 678 N.W.2d 197 (citation omitted). The court considered the seriousness of the offenses, Linton's character, and the need to protect the public. *State v. Ziegler*, 2006 WI App 49, ¶23, 289 Wis. 2d 594, 712 N.W.2d 76. Under the circumstances of the case, which were aggravated by the read-in offenses and Linton's prior criminal record, the sentence imposed does not "shock public sentiment and violate the judgment of reasonable people concerning what is right and proper." *Ocanas v. State*, 70 Wis. 2d 179, 185, 233 N.W.2d 457 (1975). We agree with counsel that a challenge to Linton's sentence would lack arguable merit.

Our review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal.<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, this court accepts the no-merit report, affirms the judgment of conviction, and discharges appellate counsel of the obligation to represent Linton further in this appeal.

Upon the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that the judgment of the circuit court is summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Andrew H. Morgan is relieved of further representation of Jasmaine Montrell Linton in this appeal. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Linton's pleas forfeited the right to raise other nonjurisdictional defects and defenses, including claimed violations of constitutional rights. *See State v. Kelty*, 2006 WI 101, ¶18 & n.11, 294 Wis. 2d 62, 716 N.W.2d 886; *see also State v. Lasky*, 2002 WI App 126, ¶11, 254 Wis. 2d 789, 646 N.W.2d 53.

## IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this summary disposition order will not be published.

Samuel A. Christensen Clerk of Court of Appeals