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**DISTRICT II**

December 23, 2025

*To:*

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Circuit Court Judge  
Electronic Notice

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

2025AP102

Amir A. Alqaddi v. Merwa Alchaar (L.C. #2024PR155)

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).**

Merwa Alchaar appeals from an order denying her motion seeking to be recognized as the putative spouse of the decedent, Amir A. Alqaddi, at his time of death and therefore a lawful spouse for probate purposes. The Estate of Amir A. Alqaddi has not filed a response brief. Based upon our review of the briefs and record, we conclude at conference that this case is

appropriate for summary disposition. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21 (2023-24).<sup>1</sup> Based on the Estate's failure to file a responsive brief, we reverse the portion of the order of the circuit court addressing Alchaar's status and remand the matter for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.

On July 3, 2024, Nader A. Alkadi petitioned the circuit court shortly after the death of his brother, Alqaddi, to be named Special Administrator of Alqaddi's estate, and the court named him Special Administrator shortly thereafter. Alchaar subsequently moved the court to remove Nader as Special Administrator, asserting that she is Alqaddi's surviving spouse, that she was never notified of Nader's<sup>2</sup> petition, and that Nader had inappropriately taken property of the decedent. Alchaar asserted that she was Alqaddi's surviving spouse because, despite the absence of a marriage certificate, she met the requirements to be recognized as his putative spouse who is entitled to the rights held by legally married spouses.

The circuit court removed Nader for cause and appointed a third-party Special Administrator. The court also ruled that Alchaar was not a putative spouse of the deceased and thus not the legal wife of the decedent for probate purposes, but that Alchaar would be included in the probate proceeding as an interested person. This appeal follows.

On appeal, Alchaar contends that the circuit court erred in determining that she is not the putative spouse of Alqaddi and she seeks reversal of that part of the court's order.

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

<sup>2</sup> For clarity, we refer to Nader A. Alkadi by his first name.

The Estate has not filed a brief responding to Alchaar’s arguments. *See Charolais Breeding Ranches, Ltd. v. FPC Sec. Corp.*, 90 Wis. 2d 97, 108-09, 279 N.W.2d 493 (Ct. App. 1979) (unrefuted arguments are deemed conceded). On May 21, 2025, we informed the Estate that its responsive brief was delinquent and advised that, absent the filing of a brief within five days, the judgment or order appealed from will be disposed of summarily and may be summarily reversed. On June 3, 2025, we again warned the Estate that if it failed to file a responsive brief, we could exercise our discretion and summarily reverse the circuit court provided that we determine that the Estate had abandoned the appeal.<sup>3</sup> *See Raz v. Brown*, 2003 WI 29, ¶18, 260 Wis. 2d 614, 660 N.W.2d 647; *see also State ex rel. Blackdeer v. Township of Levis*, 176 Wis. 2d 252, 259-60, 500 N.W.2d 339 (Ct. App. 1993) (summary reversal is appropriate sanction for respondent’s violation of briefing requirements). In response, on June 23, 2025, the Estate filed a letter advising that it would not be filing a responsive brief. The Estate advised that it “takes no position as to the issue at hand and will be administered based upon the ruling of this Court.”

We decline to address the merits of the appeal under these circumstances. Because the Estate abandoned the appeal by failing to address the merits of this dispute, summary reversal is appropriate. Accordingly, we reverse the portion of the order holding that Alchaar is only an interested person and not the putative spouse of the decedent, and remand the matter for further proceedings consistent with this opinion. We leave undisturbed the other portions of the order.

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<sup>3</sup> Nader was represented by counsel in the circuit court proceedings. In our June 3, 2025 order we also advised that all attorneys, including those who participated in circuit court electronic filing for this case and those who are co-counsel on this case, and who have not already done so, must each opt in to the mandatory appellate court electronic filing system for this case within five days. Nader’s counsel in the circuit court proceedings has not done so, nor has any brief been filed other than Alchaar’s appellate brief.

Upon the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that the order of the circuit court is summarily reversed in part and the cause remanded for further proceedings consistent with this opinion, pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

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

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*Samuel A. Christensen*  
*Clerk of Court of Appeals*