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WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

110 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 215
P.O. BOX 1688
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688
Telephone (608) 266-1880
TTY: (800) 947-3529
Facsimile (608) 267-0640
Web Site: www.wicourts.gov

DISTRICT IV

April 16, 2026

To:

Hon. Karl Hanson
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Amanda Nelson
Clerk of Circuit Court
Rock County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Laura M. Force
Electronic Notice

John Blimling
Electronic Notice

Kara Noel Kulke 370952
Robert Ellsworth Correctional Center
21425-A Spring St.
Union Grove, WI 53182-9408

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

2024AP2622-CRNM State of Wisconsin v. Kara Noel Kulke (L.C. # 2021CF66)

Before Kloppenburg, Nashold, and Taylor, 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).

Attorney Lena Archer, as appointed counsel for Kara Kulke, filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 (2023-24)¹ and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). Attorney Laura Force has since replaced Archer as counsel. Counsel provided Kulke with a copy of the report, and both counsel and this court advised Kulke of the right to file a response. Kulke has not responded. We conclude that this case is appropriate for summary disposition.

¹ All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2023-24 version.

See WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21. After our independent review of the record, we conclude that there is no arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal.

Kulke pled guilty to one count of operating while intoxicated, as a seventh, eighth, or ninth offense. The circuit court imposed a sentence of six years of initial confinement and three years of extended supervision.

The no-merit report addresses whether Kulke's plea was entered knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently. With one exception, the plea colloquy sufficiently complied with the requirements of *State v. Brown*, 2006 WI 100, ¶35, 293 Wis. 2d 594, 716 N.W.2d 906, and WIS. STAT. § 971.08 relating to the nature of the charge, the rights Kulke was waiving, and other matters. The exception is that the circuit court failed to ask whether any promises were made to Kulke to induce her plea. However, the no-merit report states that counsel is not aware of any promises having been made, and therefore cannot allege any additional facts to support postconviction relief. The record shows no other ground to withdraw the plea. There is no arguable merit to this issue.

The no-merit report addresses Kulke's sentence. As explained in the no-merit report, the sentence is within the legal maximum. As to discretionary issues related to sentencing, the standards for the circuit court and this court are well established and need not be repeated here. See *State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, ¶¶17-51, 270 Wis. 2d 535, 678 N.W.2d 197. In this case, the circuit court considered appropriate sentencing factors, did not consider improper factors, and reached a reasonable result. There is no arguable merit to this issue.

Our review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal.

Therefore,

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Force is relieved of further representation of Kulke in this matter. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

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

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of Court of Appeals