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DISTRICT I

May 15, 2026

To:

Hon. Nidhi Kashyap
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Tammy Kruczynski
Juvenile Clerk
Milwaukee County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Katie L. Gutowski
Electronic Notice

Brett Lee McKellar
Electronic Notice

Division of Milwaukee Child Protective
Services
Charmian Klyve
635 North 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1803

Pamela A. Mehta
Electronic Notice

S.T.

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

2026AP576-NM

In re the termination of parental rights to A.P.T., a person under the age of 18: State of Wisconsin v. S.T. (L.C. # 2025TP124)

Before Colón, P.J.¹

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).

S.T., by counsel, appeals the circuit court order terminating her parental rights to her child, A.T. Appellate counsel has filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT.

¹ This appeal is decided by one judge pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 752.31(2)(e) (2023-24). All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2023-24 version.

RULES 809.107(5m) and 809.32. S.T. was informed of her right to respond to the report and has not responded. Upon consideration of the report, and an independent review of the record as required by *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967), this court concludes there is no arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal. Therefore, we summarily affirm the circuit court's order. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

A.T. was born on January 5, 2024. On July 16, 2025, Milwaukee County filed a petition to terminate S.T.'s parental rights to A.T. The petition alleged three grounds: (1) three-month abandonment; (2) that A.T. was a child in need of continuing protection or services (continuing CHIPS); and (3) failure to assume parental responsibility. The following day, a notice of hearing was filed scheduling the initial hearing for August 15, 2025. On July 22, 2025, a copy of the summons, the petition, and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act Declaration ("UCCJEA") affidavit were mailed to S.T. at the last address S.T. had provided to her case worker. Personal service was also attempted four times at the same address, but S.T. was not present. On July 24, 2025, the notice of hearing was published in The Daily Reporter newspaper.

An initial hearing was held on August 15, 2025. S.T. did not appear. The circuit court found S.T. in default. A status hearing was held on September 3, 2025. S.T. again did not appear. The circuit court again found S.T. in default and scheduled a fact-finding hearing for October 7, 2025. A notice of hearing was filed and mailed to S.T. at the same address she had last provided to her case worker.

The circuit court held a fact-finding hearing on October 7, 2025. S.T. did not appear. The circuit court took testimony and ultimately found that the State proved grounds as to three-

month abandonment and failure to assume parental responsibility.² The circuit court subsequently found S.T. unfit and scheduled the disposition hearing for October 9, 2025.

S.T. did not appear at the disposition hearing. After taking testimony and considering the required factors pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 48.426(3), the circuit court determined that it was in A.T.'s best interests to terminate S.T.'s parental rights. This no-merit appeal follows.

Although not addressed by the no-merit report, we first consider whether there would be any arguable merit to a claim that the circuit court failed to comply with mandatory WIS. STAT. ch. 48 time limits, thereby losing competency to proceed. *See State v. April O.*, 2000 WI App 70, ¶5, 233 Wis. 2d 663, 607 N.W.2d 927. Our review of the record confirms that the circuit court complied with the statutory time limits.

The no-merit report addresses four issues: (1) whether Milwaukee County complied with notice requirements pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 48.42(2), (2g); (2) whether the circuit court erroneously found S.T. in default when she failed to appear at any of the hearings; (3) whether there was sufficient evidence to support the circuit court's findings as to grounds for termination of parental rights; and (4) whether the circuit court properly exercised its discretion when determining that termination of S.T.'s parental rights was in A.T.'s best interests.

We have independently reviewed the record and we agree with counsel's description, analysis, and determination that this case presents no arguably meritorious issues for appeal. Our independent review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal.

² The circuit court dismissed the continuing CHIPS ground.

Therefore, upon the foregoing,

IT IS ORDERED that the order is summarily affirmed. WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Brett L. McKellar is relieved of further representation of S.T. 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