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**DISTRICT II**

June 10, 2026

To:

Hon. Sandra J. Giernoth  
Circuit Court Judge  
Electronic Notice

Thomas Brady Aquino  
Electronic Notice

Sherry Coykendall  
Register in Probate  
Washington County Courthouse  
Electronic Notice

Thomas Tarver  
Electronic Notice

J.S.  
Mendota Mental Health Institution  
301 Troy Drive  
Madison, WI 53704

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

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2026AP75-NM

Washington County v. J.J.S. (L.C. #2024ME122)

Before Lazar, J.<sup>1</sup>

**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).**

In this WIS. STAT. ch. 51 case, J.J.S. appeals from orders of the circuit court extending his commitment for twelve months and authorizing the involuntary administration of medication and treatment. J.J.S.'s appellate counsel filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). J.J.S. did not file a response. After reviewing

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

the Record and counsel's report, we conclude there are no issues with arguable merit for appeal. Therefore, we summarily affirm the orders. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

J.J.S. was initially detained on July 11, 2024, for "very erratic" driving on I-41 in Oshkosh. He was observed by law enforcement traveling at speeds in excess of 95 miles per hour, passing on the shoulder, and nearly striking "multiple vehicles." He was taken into custody, where it was determined he was having a mental health crisis. On July 26, 2024, the circuit court entered six-month mental commitment and involuntary medication orders, and J.J.S. was sent to the Mendota Mental Health Institute. The court extended the commitment and involuntary medication orders for an additional six months on January 14, 2025.

On June 18, 2025, Washington County filed a petition to extend the commitment and involuntary medication orders by twelve months. A hearing was held on July 14, 2025, where testimony was heard from J.J.S.'s treating psychiatrist. The doctor described J.J.S.'s mental illness and inability to make medication or treatment decisions, stating he was "by far the sickest patient I have ever had with bipolar disorder." The doctor further testified that J.J.S. had attempted to strike him at times, and that he had witnessed J.J.S. strike staff members at Mendota.

Testimony was also heard from a nurse at Mendota. He described a specific incident in May 2025 where he and five other staff members were attempting to get J.J.S. to take a shower due to his having a strong odor of urine. The nurse stated that J.J.S. resisted, spitting, clawing, and kicking at the staff members as well as attempting to bite and punch them, while yelling racial slurs. J.J.S. also said "I'll kill you" during this incident. The nurse testified that this is a regular pattern of behavior with J.J.S.

J.J.S. also testified at the hearing. He stated that his bipolar disorder diagnosis is “incorrect,” and that he actually has a “mild case of Down Syndrome.” He also stated that his leg had been broken in the incident described by the nurse, but that he “put it back together on [his] own.”

Based on the testimony, the circuit court found that the County had met its burden of demonstrating that J.J.S. is dangerous as he presents a substantial probability of physical harm to others. *See* WIS. STAT. § 51.20(1)(a)2b. The court therefore granted the petition to extend both orders for twelve months. This no-merit appeal follows.

The no-merit report addresses whether the circuit court orders extending J.J.S.’s commitment for twelve months and authorizing the involuntary administration of medication and treatment were valid and supported by sufficient evidence. We agree with appellate counsel’s analysis that there are no issues of arguable merit.<sup>2</sup>

Our independent review of the Record does not disclose any potentially meritorious issue for appeal. Because we conclude that there would be no arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal, we accept the no-merit report and relieve Attorney Thomas Brady Aquino from further representation of J.J.S. in this appeal.

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<sup>2</sup> Appellate counsel notes that the written extension orders were not entered until July 16, 2025, two days after the previous orders expired on July 14, 2025. However, counsel explains that because the orders were issued orally from the bench at the hearing on July 14, 2025, the date the written orders were entered does not affect the circuit court’s competency in this matter. *See* WIS. STAT. § 806.06(1)(d) (“[a] judgment is granted when given orally in open court on the record”). Counsel therefore concludes that there is no arguably meritorious claim to be raised regarding this issue. We agree with counsel’s assessment.

Upon the foregoing reasons,

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Thomas Brady Aquino is relieved of further representation of J.J.S. in this matter. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

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*