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DISTRICT II

July 15, 2026

To:

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Circuit Court Judge
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Racine County Courthouse
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Sarah Maureen Kidd
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Brian Patrick Mullins
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K.S.R.

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

2025AP1973-NM

Racine County v. K.S.R. (L.C. #2024ME119)

Before Gundrum, 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).

In this WIS. STAT. ch. 51 case, K.S.R. appeals from an order for commitment for six months and an order authorizing the involuntary administration of medication and treatment during that period of commitment. K.S.R.'s appellate counsel filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). K.S.R. did not file a response. After reviewing the Record and counsel's report, we conclude there are no issues with

¹ 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.

arguable merit for appeal. Therefore, we summarily affirm the orders. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

K.S.R. was detained on August 18, 2024, after police responded to a call regarding an unstable person suffering from mental illness at an apartment in Mount Pleasant. K.S.R.'s mother, Clarice Smith, told police that K.S.R. and her child were staying at the apartment with K.S.R.'s brother. Smith stated that K.S.R. was not taking her prescribed medication and had not slept in two or three days. At about 4:40 a.m., K.S.R. had armed herself with a steak knife and was poking it into the wall approximately five feet from where her child was sleeping. Additionally, K.S.R.'s brother told police that while K.S.R. was standing close to his room, she said to him "don't get cut." He reported that he did not feel safe with K.S.R. living in his home.

A mobile crisis worker also responded to the apartment, and attempted to speak with K.S.R. However, the conversation "made no sense" and K.S.R.'s "thoughts were extremely disorganized." It was therefore determined that K.S.R. should be detained under WIS. STAT. ch. 51 for the safety of her family due to these "overt dangerous acts."

A probable cause hearing was promptly held on August 21, 2024. Smith testified regarding K.S.R.'s behavior that day, as did the mobile crisis worker. Additionally, the psychiatrist treating K.S.R. testified that she suffers from schizophrenia, that her condition is

treatable, and that she presents a substantial probability of physical harm to either herself or others. The circuit court found probable cause to proceed and a final hearing was scheduled.²

The final hearing was held on August 30, 2024.³ Smith again testified as to K.S.R.'s behavior that night, and discussed her history of mental health issues. Smith stated that K.S.R. does well when she is on medication, but that she does not take it consistently.

A psychiatrist who evaluated K.S.R., Dr. Marshall Bales, also testified. Dr. Bales stated that K.S.R. refused to meet with him, but he was able to do a brief medication review with her. Based on that meeting and K.S.R.'s medical records, Dr. Bales diagnosed K.S.R. with either schizoaffective manic with psychotic features or bipolar manic with psychotic features.

Dr. Bales noted that K.S.R.'s mental health problems began approximately four years before this incident. He stated that K.S.R. has had "multiple hospitalizations in multiple states" because she has been "nomadic ... roam[ing] from place to place with or without her child" and that her "psychosis is behind her instability in housing." As a result, Dr. Bales opined that K.S.R. is unable to take care of her own "basic needs" such as food, shelter, and medical care. He further stated that K.S.R.'s condition is "a very treatable mental illness," but that in her current state she was incapable of understanding medication recommendations. Dr. Bales

² At the probable cause hearing, K.S.R. objected to the venue, claiming that she is a resident of Colorado and that Racine County therefore did not have proper jurisdiction over her. However, a representative from the human services department stated that K.S.R. had medical assistance insurance coverage through Racine County. The circuit court therefore found that this matter was in the proper venue.

³ K.S.R. was initially placed at St. Luke's Hospital in Racine, but she was moved to Winnebago Mental Health Institute prior to the final hearing due to concerns about her aggressive behavior.

concluded that this demonstrates that K.S.R. is unable to care for herself, and that the knife incident demonstrates that she is a danger to others.

K.S.R. also testified. She denied the behavior that resulted in the call to her brother's apartment on August 18, 2024. She stated she always carries a small knife with her "as a single mother," and that she was going to put it in her purse.

Based on this evidence, the circuit court determined that Racine County had met its burden, pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 51.20(1)(a), of demonstrating that K.S.R. was mentally ill, a proper subject for treatment, and that she was a danger to others, *see* § 51.20(1)(a)2.b., as well as unable to meet her own basic needs, *see* § 51.20(1)(a)2.d. The court therefore ordered that K.S.R. be committed for a period of six months, and ordered the involuntary administration of medication during the commitment period.⁴ This no-merit appeal follows.

The no-merit report addresses whether there was sufficient evidence to support the circuit court's orders committing K.S.R. and allowing the involuntary administration of medication and treatment. We agree with appellate counsel's analysis that the testimony at the final hearing was sufficient to prove all required facts by clear and convincing evidence and satisfy the applicable standards. *See* WIS. STAT. § 51.20(13)(e); ***K.N.K. v. Buhler***, 139 Wis. 2d 190, 198, 407 N.W.2d 281 (Ct. App. 1987) (the application of the facts to a statutory concept presents a question of law we review de novo). Accordingly, there is no basis to challenge the circuit court orders.

⁴ K.S.R.'s commitment was not continued after six months.

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 Brian Patrick Mullins from further representation of K.S.R. in this appeal.

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 Brian Patrick Mullins is relieved from further representing K.S.R. in this appeal. *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