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DISTRICT II

July 22, 2026

To:

Hon. Mark T. Slate
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

John Blimling
Electronic Notice

Amy Thoma
Clerk of Circuit Court
Green Lake County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Daniel Joseph Hellman
Electronic Notice

Vernon F. Cerney Jr.
6034 S. Cleveland Rd.
Cleveland, WI 53015

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

2025AP937-CRNM	State of Wisconsin v. Vernon F. Cerney, Jr. (L.C. #2022CF149)
2025AP938-CRNM	State of Wisconsin v. Vernon F. Cerney, Jr. (L.C. #2022CF124)

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).

In these consolidated cases, Vernon F. Cerney, Jr., appeals from judgments convicting him of several crimes. His appellate counsel filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 (2023-24)¹ and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). Cerney received a copy of the report, was advised of his right to file a response, and has elected not to do so. Upon consideration of the report and an independent review of the records, we conclude there are no

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

issues with arguable merit for appeal. We summarily affirm the judgments. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

Cerney entered no contest pleas to possession of methamphetamine, operating with a restricted controlled substance as a third offense, and operating with a restricted controlled substance as a fourth offense—all as a repeater. The charges stemmed from two cases that were handled together in the circuit court. The court withheld sentence and placed Cerney on probation with conditional jail time. It also imposed fines totaling \$3,200. These no-merit appeals follow.

The no-merit report addresses (1) whether police lawfully extended the traffic stop in Cerney’s first case;² (2) whether trial counsel should have challenged the traffic stop in Cerney’s second case;³ (3) whether Cerney’s pleas were knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently entered; and (4) whether the circuit court properly exercised its discretion at sentencing. This court is satisfied that the no-merit report correctly analyzes the issues it raises as without merit, and we will not discuss them further.

² In that case, Cerney was stopped because the registered owner of the vehicle he was driving had a revoked license. Upon stopping the vehicle, the police officer noticed that Cerney had constricted pupils and unusually rapid speech. This, along with Cerney’s history of illegal drug use, led the officer to administer field sobriety tests. During the field sobriety tests, a K-9 unit alerted to the presence of drugs in the vehicle.

³ In that case, which occurred a month later and involved a different police officer, Cerney was again stopped because the registered owner of the vehicle he was driving had a revoked license.

Our review of the records discloses no other potential issues for appeal.⁴ Accordingly, this court accepts the no-merit report, affirms the judgments of conviction, and discharges appellate counsel of the obligation to represent Cerney further in these appeals.

Upon the foregoing reasons,

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Daniel Joseph Hellman is relieved of further representation of Vernon F. Cerney, Jr., in these appeals. *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

⁴ Cerney's pleas forfeited the right to raise other nonjurisdictional defects and defenses, including claimed violations of constitutional rights. *See State v. Kelty*, 2006 WI 101, ¶18 & n.11, 294 Wis. 2d 62, 716 N.W.2d 886; *see also State v. Lasky*, 2002 WI App 126, ¶11, 254 Wis. 2d 789, 646 N.W.2d 53.