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DISTRICT IV

August 27, 2026

To:

Hon. Ryan D. Nilsestuen
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Christian Farina
Electronic Notice

Jeff Okazaki
Clerk of Circuit Court
Dane County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Martin Mora
Electronic Notice

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

2025AP1478

County of Dane v. Martin Mora (L.C. # 2024CX21)

Before Graham, 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).

Martin Mora timely appeals two circuit court orders denying his motions to reopen a default judgment that was entered against him in a civil forfeiture case. Having reviewed the briefs and record I conclude that this case is appropriate for summary disposition, and I affirm.

In December 2024, Dane County filed a complaint alleging that Mora was storing junk vehicles outdoors on his property contrary to ordinance. The complaint alleged that the vehicles

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

had been present since at least June of that year. The County also filed proof that Mora had been personally served with the complaint.

Mora did not file an answer or otherwise respond, and in February 2025, the County sought and received a default judgment for \$45,400.

Mora filed motions seeking to reopen the matter in April and June of 2025. Both motions alleged that Mora does not speak English, and that he had relied on his son to address the matter, but that the son had not done so. The circuit court denied both motions on the ground that they were untimely filed and that they failed to “establish mistake, inadvertence or excusable neglect.”

On appeal, Mora’s pro se brief raises concerns about the process that led to the entry of the default judgment, the size of the judgment, and the fairness of the County’s actions and the circuit court proceedings. However, Mora did not timely appeal the default judgment, assuming that an appeal was permitted at all. *See* WIS. STAT. § 808.04(1) (providing no more than 90 days to appeal a final judgment); WIS. STAT. § 799.29(1)(a) (“[t]here shall be no appeal from default judgments” in cases governed by WIS. STAT. ch. 799). He did timely appeal the orders denying his motions to reopen the judgment, and our review is limited to the issue of whether the circuit court erred in denying those motions. Mora does not develop any argument regarding the reasons the court gave for denying those motions. Therefore, he does not establish a basis to reverse those orders.

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

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

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of Court of Appeals