



OFFICE OF THE CLERK
WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

110 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 215

P.O. BOX 1688

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

Telephone (608) 266-1880

TTY: (800) 947-3529

Facsimile (608) 267-0640

Web Site: www.wicourts.gov

DISTRICT IV

October 2, 2025

To:

Hon. Patricia A. Barrett
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Megan Elizabeth Lyneis
Electronic Notice

Carrie Wastlick
Clerk of Circuit Court
Sauk County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Samuel R. Walter 726555
Dodge Correctional Inst.
P.O. Box 800
Waupun, WI 53963

John Blimling
Electronic Notice

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

2025AP840-CRNM State of Wisconsin v. Samuel R. Walter (L.C. #2022CF245)

Before Graham, P.J., Nashold, and Taylor, 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).

Attorney Megan Elizabeth Lyneis, as appointed counsel for Samuel R. Walter, has filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 (2023-24)¹ and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). Counsel provided Walter with a copy of the report, and both counsel and this court advised him of his right to file a response. Walter has not responded. We conclude that this case is appropriate for summary disposition. See WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21. After our

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

independent review of the record, we conclude that there is no arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal.

The State charged Walter by amended information with two counts of second-degree sexual assault of a child (sexual intercourse with a child under the age of sixteen); two counts of sexual exploitation of a child (filming); two counts of sexual exploitation of a child (filming), as a party to a crime; and one count of possession of child pornography. Pursuant to a plea agreement, Walter pled guilty to both sexual assault charges, to one of the sexual exploitation charges, and to the possession of child pornography charge. The remaining counts were dismissed and read in. The circuit court ultimately imposed consecutive sentences totaling 53 years of initial confinement and 37 years of extended supervision. The court awarded Walter 581 days of sentence credit.

The no-merit report first addresses whether Walter's pleas were entered knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently. The plea colloquy, supplemented by a signed plea questionnaire and waiver of rights form with attached jury instructions, sufficiently complied with the requirements of *State v. Brown*, 2006 WI 100, ¶35, 293 Wis. 2d 594, 716 N.W.2d 906, and Wis. STAT. § 971.08 relating to the nature of the charges, the rights Walter was waiving, and other matters. The record shows no other ground to withdraw the pleas. There is no arguable merit to this issue.

The no-merit report also addresses Walter's sentences. The sentences are within the legal maximums. As to discretionary issues, the standards for the circuit court and this court are well established and need not be repeated here. See *State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, ¶¶17-51, 270 Wis. 2d 535, 678 N.W.2d 197. In this case, the circuit court considered appropriate factors, did

not consider improper factors, and reached a reasonable result. Any challenge to the court's exercise of sentencing discretion would be without arguable merit.

Our review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal.

Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the judgment of conviction is summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Lyneis is relieved of further representation of Walter 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