



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 I

November 4, 2025

To:

Hon. Marshall B. Murray
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Tammy Kruczynski
Juvenile Clerk
Milwaukee County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Christopher P. August
Electronic Notice

Danielle E. Chojnacki
Electronic Notice

Division of Milwaukee Child Protective
Services
Charmian Klyve
635 North 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1803

Clarice Rosa Ruehl
Electronic Notice

Z.S.

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

2024AP338-NM	In re the termination of parental rights to Z.S., a person under the age of 18: State of Wisconsin v. Z.S. (L.C. # 2022TP163)
2024AP339-NM	In re the termination of parental rights to Z.S., a person under the age of 18: State of Wisconsin v. Z.S. (L.C. # 2022TP164)

Before Colón, 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).

Attorney Christopher P. August, appointed counsel for Z.S., has filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.107(5m). Counsel provided Z.S. with a copy of the report, and

¹ These appeals are decided by one judge pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 752.31(2)(e) (2023-24). All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2023-24 version.

both counsel and this court advised him of his right to file a response. Z.S. has not responded. The court concludes that these cases are appropriate for summary disposition. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21. After an independent review of the records as required by *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967), the court concludes that the records do not show arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal.

As to both children, Z.S. entered a plea of no contest to the ground of abandonment. The court conducted the personal colloquy with Z.S. as required by WIS. STAT. § 48.422(7) and *Kenosha County DHS v. Jodie W.*, 2006 WI 93, ¶¶24-25, 293 Wis. 2d 530, 716 N.W.2d 845. In addition, the court heard testimony in support of the abandonment ground, as required by § 48.422(3). That testimony established the necessary elements for that ground. For these reasons, the record does not show that there is arguable merit to any argument to withdraw Z.S.'s plea of no contest.

The circuit court held a contested dispositional hearing and concluded that it was in the best interests of the children that Z.S.'s parental rights be terminated. Z.S. argued for guardianship until he is released from incarceration, in 2030 at the earliest. The court's decision to deny that request emphasized the children's need for permanence and their lack of current substantial relationships with him. The court also noted the satisfactory adaptation of the children to their current placement with an adoptive resource, and concluded that adoption is the only appropriate path to permanence.

The court considered the proper standard and factors under WIS. STAT. § 48.426(2) and (3), did not consider improper factors, and reached a reasonable result. An argument that the court erroneously exercised its discretion would lack arguable merit.

Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the orders terminating parental rights are summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney August is relieved of further representation of Z.S. in these cases.

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

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of Court of Appeals