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DISTRICT III

January 27, 2026

To:

Hon. Marc A. Hammer
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

John VanderLeest
Clerk of Circuit Court
Brown County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Thomas Brady Aquino
Electronic Notice

John Blimling
Electronic Notice

Jarid Wolfgang Stevens 708145
Kettle Moraine Correctional Inst.
P.O. Box 31
Plymouth, WI 53073

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

2024AP135-CRNM State of Wisconsin v. Jarid Wolfgang Stevens
(L. C. No. 2019CF301)

Before Stark, P.J., Hruz, and Gill, 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).

Jarid Stevens appeals from a judgment convicting him, upon a no-contest plea, of felony murder in the commission of armed robbery, as party to a crime. Attorney Thomas Aquino has filed a no-merit report seeking to withdraw as Stevens's appellate counsel. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 (2023-24).¹ The no-merit report sets forth the procedural history of the case and

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

addresses the validity of Stevens's plea and sentence. Stevens was informed of his right to respond to the no-merit report, but he has not filed a response. Having independently reviewed the entire record as mandated by *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738, 744 (1967), we conclude that there are no arguably meritorious issues for appeal. Therefore, we summarily affirm the judgment of conviction. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

The complaint charged Stevens with conspiracy to commit armed robbery, first-degree reckless homicide as party to a crime, and conspiracy to commit obstructing an officer. All of the charges arose from allegations that Stevens conspired with three other men to rob a drug dealer and that one of the other men shot and killed the drug dealer during the robbery. The conspirators thereafter created a false story of self-defense to tell the police.

Stevens agreed to plead no contest to an amended charge of felony murder, as party to a crime (replacing both the armed robbery and homicide charges), in exchange for the dismissal of the obstruction charge as a read-in offense and the State's agreement to cap its sentencing recommendation at 20 years' initial confinement followed by 10 years' extended supervision. The circuit court accepted Stevens's plea after conducting a plea colloquy, reviewing Stevens's signed plea questionnaire, and ascertaining that there was a factual basis to support the plea.

The circuit court ordered a presentence investigation report and subsequently held a sentencing hearing. After hearing from the parties, including the defendant personally, as well as from the victim's family, the court discussed factors related to the severity of the offense and Stevens's character, and it explained how they related to the court's primary sentencing goal of protecting the public. The court then sentenced Stevens to 15 years' initial confinement

followed by 8 years' extended supervision, with 1,163 days of sentence credit. It also ordered that Stevens pay \$12,083 in restitution, joint and several with Stevens's co-conspirators.

Upon reviewing the record, we agree with counsel's discussion and conclusion that Stevens has no arguably meritorious basis to challenge the plea or sentence. The circuit court conducted an adequate plea colloquy, aided by a plea questionnaire, and Stevens does not assert that he misunderstood the charge or his rights. *See* WIS. STAT. § 971.08; *State v. Hoppe*, 2009 WI 41, ¶18, 317 Wis. 2d 161, 765 N.W.2d 794; *State v. Moederndorfer*, 141 Wis. 2d 823, 827-28, 416 N.W.2d 627 (Ct. App. 1987). The sentence imposed was within the maximum available penalties and was not unduly harsh, given the circumstances of the case. *See State v. Grindemann*, 2002 WI App 106, ¶¶31-32, 255 Wis. 2d 632, 648 N.W.2d 507.

Our independent review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal. We conclude that any further appellate proceedings would be wholly frivolous within the meaning of *Anders*. Accordingly, counsel shall be allowed to withdraw, and the judgment of conviction will be summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

Upon the foregoing,

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Thomas Aquino is relieved of any further representation of Jarid Wolfgang Stevens in this matter pursuant to 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*