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**DISTRICT I**

April 21, 2026

To:

Hon. Mark A. Sanders  
Circuit Court Judge  
Electronic Notice

Anna Hodges  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Milwaukee County Safety Building  
Electronic Notice

John Blimling  
Electronic Notice

George Tauscheck  
Electronic Notice

Willie Bernard Lyons, III 605049  
Green Bay Correctional Inst.  
P.O. Box 19033  
Green Bay, WI 54307-9033

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

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2025AP767-CRNM      State of Wisconsin v. Willie Bernard Lyons, III  
(L.C. # 2023CF115)

Before Colón, P.J., Donald, and Geenen, 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).**

Willie Bernard Lyons, III, appeals a judgment convicting him of one count of first-degree sexual assault of a child under the age of 16 and one count of second-degree sexual assault by the use of force. Appellate counsel, George Tauscheck, filed a no-merit report pursuant to *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967), and WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32 (2023-24).<sup>1</sup> Lyons received a copy of the report, was advised of his right to file a response, and has not responded. We have independently reviewed the record and the no-merit report as mandated by *Anders*, and we

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<sup>1</sup> All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2023-24 version.

conclude that there are no issues of arguable merit that could be pursued on appeal. We therefore summarily affirm. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

On January 11, 2023, the State charged Lyons with seven counts of first-degree sexual assault of a child under the age of 16, one count of conspiracy to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance (one gram or less of cocaine), and one count of possession of a firearm by a felon. The complaint alleged that Lyons displayed a firearm and sexually assaulted T.L., a 15-year-old child in foster care, in his car seven times. The complaint states that Lyons was friends with T.L.'s biological mother and that on January 5, 2023, Lyons picked T.L. and her mother up from a Walmart. Lyons dropped T.L.'s mother off at her home, but told T.L. to come to the front seat of the car. Lyons drove to a different location, pulled out a gun, placed it on the center console, and then proceeded to sexually assault T.L. multiple times in multiple ways. The complaint further states that after the assaults, Lyons drove back to T.L.'s mother's home and gave the mother cocaine. T.L. ultimately returned to her foster mother's home, where she called Milwaukee police.

Lyons pled guilty to one count of first-degree sexual assault of a child under the age of 16 and an amended charge of second-degree sexual assault. The remaining charges were dismissed and read in. The circuit court conducted a colloquy with Lyons and accepted his pleas. The court imposed consecutive sentences of 27 years of incarceration and 10 years of extended supervision for the first-degree sexual assault count, followed by 10 years of incarceration and 10 years of extended supervision for the second-degree sexual assault count.

Appellate counsel's no-merit report addresses two issues: (1) whether Lyons's pleas were knowing, intelligent, and voluntary; and (2) whether the circuit court properly exercised its sentencing discretion.

With regard to Lyons's guilty pleas, our review of the record—including the plea questionnaire/waiver of rights form, the addendum, the jury instructions, and the plea hearing transcript—confirms that the circuit court complied with its obligations for taking guilty pleas, pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 971.08, *State v. Bangert*, 131 Wis. 2d 246, 261-62, 389 N.W.2d 12 (1986), and *State v. Brown*, 2006 WI 100, ¶35, 293 Wis. 2d 594, 716 N.W.2d 906. These obligations exist specifically to help ensure the validity of any plea. We thus agree with appellate counsel's conclusion in the no-merit report that there is no arguable merit to seeking plea withdrawal based on a claim that Lyons's pleas were anything other than knowing, intelligent, and voluntary.

With regard to the circuit court's sentencing decision, we note that sentencing is a matter for the circuit court's discretion. *See State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, ¶17, 270 Wis. 2d 535, 678 N.W.2d 197. At sentencing, a court must consider the principal objectives of sentencing, including the protection of the community, the punishment and rehabilitation of the defendant, and deterrence to others. *State v. Ziegler*, 2006 WI App 49, ¶23, 289 Wis. 2d 594, 712 N.W.2d 76. It must also determine which objective or objectives are of greatest importance. *Gallion*, 270 Wis. 2d 535, ¶41. In seeking to fulfill the sentencing objectives, the court should consider several primary factors, including the gravity of the offense, the character of the offender, and the protection of the public, and it may consider additional factors. *State v. Odom*, 2006 WI App 145, ¶7, 294 Wis. 2d 844, 720 N.W.2d 695. The weight to be given to each factor is committed to the court's discretion. *Id.* Our review of the record confirms that the court appropriately

considered the relevant sentencing objectives and factors, and specifically focused on the brutality of the assaults, Lyons's character, and the need to protect the public. The resulting sentence was within the potential maximum authorized by law, *see State v. Scaccio*, 2000 WI App 265, ¶18, 240 Wis. 2d 95, 622 N.W.2d 449, and is not so excessive so as to shock the public's sentiment, *see Ocanas v. State*, 70 Wis. 2d 179, 185, 233 N.W.2d 457 (1975).

Our independent review of the record reveals no other potential issues of arguable merit.

Therefore,

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney George Tauscheck is relieved of further representation of Willie Bernard Lyons, III, in this matter. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

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

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*Samuel A. Christensen*  
*Clerk of Court of Appeals*