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DISTRICT II

August 26, 2026

To:

Hon. Jodi L. Meier
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Rebecca Matoska-Mentink
Clerk of Circuit Court
Kenosha County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Erica Reinke
Electronic Notice

Jill C. Vento
Electronic Notice

Gregory James Mayew
Electronic Notice

J.L.R.

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

2026AP1446-NM

State of Wisconsin v. J.L.R. (L.C. #2024TP66)

Before Lazar, 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).

Janelle² appeals from an order terminating her parental rights to her daughter, Alexis. Janelle's appellate counsel filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULES 809.107(5m) and 809.32. Janelle received a copy of the report, was advised of her right to file a response, and has elected not to do so. After reviewing the Record and counsel's report, this court concludes

¹ This appeal is 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.

² This court refers to the subject individuals by pseudonyms consistent with WIS. STAT. § 809.19(1)(g), to protect their confidentiality.

that there are no issues with arguable merit for appeal. Therefore, the order is summarily affirmed. WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

Alexis was taken into protective custody three weeks after her birth in April 2022, due to Janelle's drug use. Alexis was subsequently found to be a child in need of protection or services. As relevant to this appeal, in December 2024, the State petitioned to terminate Janelle's parental rights, and filed a motion for partial summary judgment as to grounds. At the motion hearing, Janelle's counsel stated that there was no basis "for contesting or putting forth material facts to indicate that the Court could not give partial summary judgment" on the continuing denial of periods of physical placement ground. Testimony was taken to prove the ground, which the circuit court found the State did.

Accordingly, the circuit court found that Janelle was unfit. After a dispositional hearing, the court found that it was in the best interest of Alexis to be placed for adoption with her foster family, and terminated Janelle's parental rights. This no-merit appeal follows.

The no-merit report addresses potential issues of: (1) whether the circuit court properly granted summary judgment on the ground of continuing denial of periods of physical placement, and (2) whether the court properly exercised its discretion in determining that termination of Janelle's parental rights was in the best interest of Alexis. This court is satisfied that the no-merit report correctly analyzes the issues it raises as without merit, and this court will not discuss them further.

An independent review of the Record does not disclose any other potentially meritorious issue for appeal. Because this court concludes that there would be no arguable merit to any issue

that could be raised on appeal, the no-merit report is accepted and Attorney Jill C. Vento is relieved of further representation in this matter.

Upon the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that the order of the circuit court is summarily affirmed pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Jill C. Vento is relieved of further representation of J.L.R. 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