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DISTRICT III

February 11, 2025

To:

Hon. Ann N. Knox-Bauer
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Lisa Walcisak
Clerk of Circuit Court
Price County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Thomas Brady Aquino
Electronic Notice

Jennifer L. Vandermeuse
Electronic Notice

Jason L. Williams 479439
Jackson Correctional Inst.
P.O. Box 233
Black River Falls, WI 54615-0233

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

2023AP995-CRNM State of Wisconsin v. Jason L. Williams (L. C. No. 2020CF42)

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).

Counsel for Jason L. Williams has filed a no-merit report, concluding that no grounds exist to challenge Williams' conviction for first-degree reckless homicide by delivery of heroin, as party to a crime, contrary to WIS. STAT. §§ 940.02(2)(a) and 939.05 (2021-22).¹ Williams was informed of his right to file a response to the no-merit report, and he has not responded. Upon our independent review of the record as mandated by *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967),

¹ All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2021-22 version unless otherwise noted.

we conclude there is no arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal. Therefore, we summarily affirm the judgment of conviction. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

The charge in this case arose from allegations that Williams sold heroin to Jacob Koerner; that Koerner and his girlfriend, Alexis Stueber, sold some of the heroin to Jason Martin; and that Martin overdosed on the heroin and died later that night or early the next morning. After numerous delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a three-day jury trial was held. The jury found Williams guilty of the crime charged. Out of a maximum possible forty-year sentence, the circuit court imposed a seventeen-year term, consisting of seven years of initial confinement followed by ten years of extended supervision. The court also granted Williams 731 days of sentence credit.

The no-merit report addresses whether there was sufficient credible evidence to support the guilty verdict, despite the alternative inferences the jury could have made. The report also addresses whether the circuit court properly exercised its sentencing discretion. In addition, the report addresses a number of trial-related issues, including whether the jury was properly impaneled and whether there are any grounds to challenge the opening statements, the closing arguments, the jury instructions given, or the court's evidentiary rulings. Upon reviewing the record, we agree with counsel's description, analysis, and conclusion that none of these issues has arguable merit. The no-merit report sets forth an adequate discussion of the potential issues to support the no-merit conclusion, and we need not address them further.

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

Therefore,

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Thomas B. Aquino is relieved of his obligation to further represent Jason L. Williams 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