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DISTRICT III

July 22, 2025

To:

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

Lindsay Campbell
Juvenile Clerk
Taylor County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Lena D. Archer
Electronic Notice

Courtney L. Graff
Electronic Notice

S. S.

Christina M. Writz
Slaby, Deda, Marshall & Reinhard LLP
215 N. Lake Ave.
Phillips, WI 54555

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

2025AP1163-NM
2025AP1164-NM

Taylor County Human Services Department v. S. S.
(L. C. Nos. 2024TP8, 2024TP9)

Before Stark, 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).

S.S. ("Sarah") appeals from orders voluntarily terminating her parental rights to A.S. ("Alex") and S.S. ("Susan").² Attorney Lena Archer has filed a no-merit report seeking to withdraw as appellate counsel in each of these consolidated cases. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32;

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

² Pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.81(8), we use pseudonyms instead of the parties' names in this confidential matter.

Anders v. California, 386 U.S. 738, 744 (1967). The no-merit report sets forth the procedural history of the cases and addresses whether Sarah knowingly and voluntarily consented to the termination of her parental rights to each child and whether the circuit court erroneously exercised its discretion by terminating Sarah’s rights. Sarah was advised of the right to respond to the report, but she has not done so. Upon independently reviewing the entire records, as well as the no-merit report, we conclude that counsel will be allowed to withdraw, and the judgment terminating Sarah’s rights to the children will be summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

The Taylor County Department of Human Services filed petitions to terminate Sarah’s parental rights to Alex and Susan on the alleged grounds that the children were in continuing need of protection and services (CHIPS) under WIS. STAT. § 48.415(2)(a) and that Sarah had failed to assume parental responsibility under § 48.415(6). Sarah filed a signed “Statement of Rights, Responsibilities, and Options and Voluntary Consent to Termination of Parental Rights” form in each case. After reviewing the forms and taking testimony from Sarah, the circuit court found that Sarah voluntarily consented to the termination of her parental rights to each child.

The Department subsequently filed a dispositional report in each case recommending that Sarah’s rights to the children be terminated so that the children could be adopted. Sarah informed the circuit court that she did not object to the proposed dispositions.

After taking testimony from Sarah’s caseworker, the circuit court found that Sarah had failed to complete the conditions for reunification in the CHIPS cases during the nearly three years that the children had been removed from the home. The court noted that the children’s special needs were being addressed in their current placement, the children could be kept

together because the foster family would adopt both of them, and termination would not sever any meaningful familial relationships. The court then terminated Sarah's parental rights.

We agree with counsel's analysis and conclusion that any challenge to Sarah's consent or to the circuit court's exercise of discretion would lack arguable merit. Our independent review of the records discloses no other potential issues for appeal. We conclude that any further appellate proceedings would be wholly frivolous within the meaning of *Anders* and WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that the termination of parental rights orders are summarily affirmed pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Lena Archer is relieved of any further representation of the appellant in these matters 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