

OFFICE OF THE CLERK WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

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DISTRICT I

July 22, 2025

To:

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Kenneth E. Williams-Butler 1425 Sterling Heights Court, #9 Green Bay, WI 54302

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

2024AP806-CRNM State of Wisconsin v. Kenneth E. Williams-Butler

(L.C. # 2020CM2384)

2024AP807-CRNM State of Wisconsin v. Kenneth E. Williams-Butler

(L.C. # 2020CF3635)

Before White, C.J., Geenen, and Colón, 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).

In these consolidated matters, Kenneth E. Williams-Butler appeals from judgments convicting him of disorderly conduct as an act of domestic abuse and child neglect.¹ His appellate counsel, Leonard D. Kachinsky, filed a no-merit report pursuant to Wis. STAT. RULE 809.32 (2023-24)² and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). Williams-Butler received a copy of the report, was advised of his right to file a response, and did not do so. We have independently reviewed the records and the no-merit report as mandated by *Anders*. We conclude that there is no issue of arguable merit that could be pursued on appeal. We therefore summarily affirm.

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The State charged Williams-Butler with one count of physical abuse of a child (recklessly causing great bodily harm) as a repeater. Pursuant to negotiations, he pled guilty to a lesser offense of felony child neglect, without the repeater enhancer. The circuit court sentenced Williams-Butler to 21 months of initial confinement and 2 years of extended supervision, consecutive to any other sentence. The court additionally awarded 127 days of sentence credit.³

¹ The Honorable Audrey Skwierawski presided over the combined plea proceedings. The Honorable T. Christopher Dee imposed the sentences in these matters and entered the judgments of conviction.

² All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2023-24 version.

³ The record shows that Williams-Butler filed a pro se petition for sentence adjustment pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 973.195. The circuit court denied the petition. Any issue with respect to the petition for sentence adjustment is moot insofar as it appears Williams-Butler has served the confinement portion of his sentence. *See* § 973.195(1r)(g) (allowing the circuit court to adjust a sentence by reducing the confinement period).

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The State additionally charged Williams-Butler with two misdemeanors: disorderly conduct as an act of domestic abuse and obstructing an officer. Williams-Butler pled guilty to the disorderly conduct charge and the obstructing charge was dismissed and read-in. The circuit court sentenced him to 60 days in the House of Corrections, consecutive to the sentence in Case No. 2020CF3635. This no-merit appeal follows.

The no-merit report addresses whether there would be arguable merit to a claim that Williams-Butler did not knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently enter his guilty pleas. *See State v. Bangert*, 131 Wis. 2d 246, 260, 389 N.W.2d 12 (1986). Our review of the records and of counsel's analysis in the no-merit report satisfies us that the circuit court complied with its obligations for taking the guilty pleas pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 971.08, *Bangert*, 131 Wis. 2d at 261-62, and *State v. Brown*, 2006 WI 100, ¶35, 293 Wis. 2d 594, 716 N.W.2d 906. There would be no arguable merit to a claim on this basis.

The no-merit report also addresses Williams-Butler's sentences, which fell within the legal maximums. As to discretionary issues, the standards for the circuit court and this court are well established and need not be repeated here. *See State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, ¶¶17-51, 270 Wis. 2d 535, 678 N.W.2d 197. In this case, the court considered appropriate factors, did not consider improper factors, and reached reasonable results. There is no arguable merit to this issue.

We note that Williams-Butler asked to withdraw his pleas during the sentencing hearing, immediately after the circuit court pronounced its sentences. To withdraw a plea after a sentence is pronounced requires a defendant to carry the heavy burden of establishing, by clear and

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convincing evidence, that the circuit court should allow withdrawal of the plea to correct a

"manifest injustice." State v. Thomas, 2000 WI 13, ¶16, 232 Wis. 2d 714, 605 N.W.2d 836. As

the no-merit report explains, the fact that Williams-Butler did not like the sentences he received,

without more, is not a basis for him to withdraw his pleas.

Our review of the records discloses no other potential issues for appeal.

Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the judgments are summarily affirmed. See WIS. STAT.

RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Leonard D. Kachinsky is relieved of further

representation of Kenneth E. Williams-Butler 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

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