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December 1, 2017

To:

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

2017AP1819-NM

In re the termination of parental rights to A. T. E., a person under
the age of 18: State of Wisconsin v. A. M. Z. (L.C. # 2016TP167)

Before Kloppenburg, J.¹

¹ This appeal is decided by one judge pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 752.31(2)(e) (2015-16). All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2015-16 version unless otherwise noted.

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).

Attorney Eileen Evans, appointed counsel for A.M.Z., has filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.107(5m) (2015-16). Counsel provided A.M.Z. with a copy of the report, and both counsel and this court advised A.M.Z. of her right to file a response, but she has not responded. I conclude that this case is appropriate for summary disposition. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21. After my independent review of the record, I conclude there is no arguable merit to any issue that could be raised on appeal.

At the grounds phase of the proceeding, A.M.Z. pled no contest to the ground of continuing child in need of protection. The plea was taken in a manner that complied with WIS. STAT. § 48.422(7). In addition, the circuit court heard testimony to support this ground for termination, and that evidence was sufficient to establish each element. There is no arguable merit to a claim to withdraw this plea.

The no-merit report also addresses whether the circuit court erroneously exercised its discretion at the disposition phase by ordering A.M.Z.'s parental rights terminated. The court's letter decision sufficiently considered the factors provided in WIS. STAT. § 48.426, and the court reached a reasonable decision. There is no arguable merit to this issue.

My review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal.

Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the order terminating parental rights is summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Evans is relieved of further representation of A.M.Z. in this matter. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this summary disposition order will not be published.

Diane M. Fremgen
Clerk of Court of Appeals