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DISTRICT I/III

February 27, 2018

To:

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

2017AP2229-NM State v. T. K. (L. C. Nos. 2015TP139, 2015TP137)
2018AP68-NM

Before Stark, P.J.¹

¹ This appeal is decided by one judge pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 752.31(2) (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).

Counsel for T.K. filed a no-merit report concluding there is no arguable basis for T.K. to challenge orders terminating his parental rights to I.N.J. and T.K., Jr. T.K. was advised of his right to respond to the report and has not responded. Upon this court's independent review of the record, we conclude no issue of arguable merit appears.

T.K. is the adjudicated father of I.N.J. and T.K., Jr. T.K. is currently serving a ten-year prison sentence and will not be released until 2024. As grounds for terminating T.K.'s parental rights, the petitions alleged T.K.'s failure to assume parental responsibility under WIS. STAT. § 48.415(6). The petitions alleged T.K. has not provided support or acted as a caregiver for either child. T.K. entered a no-contest plea at the grounds phase. The circuit court then conducted a dispositional hearing and found that termination of T.K.'s parental rights was in the best interest of both children.

The no-merit report addresses whether the circuit court complied with the statutory time limits, whether the circuit court conducted a proper colloquy to establish T.K.'s knowing, voluntary and intelligent waiver of his right to contest his failure to assume parental responsibility, whether there was sufficient evidence to establish that T.K. was unfit to be a parent, and whether termination of his parental rights was in the best interest of the children. Our independent review of the record confirms counsel's conclusion that there is no basis for appeal on those issues. We also conclude there is no other potential issue for appeal.

Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the orders are summarily affirmed. WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorney Gregory Bates is relieved of his obligation to further represent T.K. in this matter. WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this summary disposition order will not be published.

Sheila T. Reiff
Clerk of Court of Appeals