

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

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## **DISTRICT II**

January 30, 2019

*To*:

Hon. Karen L. Seifert Circuit Court Judge Winnebago County Courthouse P.O. Box 2808 Oshkosh, WI 54903

Sara Henke Register in Probate Winnebago County Courthouse P.O. Box 2808 Oshkosh, WI 54903-2808 Gregory Bates Bates Law Offices P.O. Box 70 Kenosha, WI 53141-0070

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J.M., #193853 Oshkosh Correctional Inst. P.O. Box 3310 Oshkosh, WI 54903-3310

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

2018AP1834-NM

In the matter of the mental commitment of J.M.: Winnebago County v. J.M. (L.C. #2017ME621)

Before Gundrum, 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).

J.M. appeals from an order authorizing that he be involuntarily medicated for his mental illness. He does not challenge an earlier order extending his commitment for outpatient care at the Wisconsin Resource Center. His appellate counsel has filed a no-merit report under Wis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This appeal is decided by one judge pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 752.31(2)(d) (2015-16). All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2015-16 version unless otherwise noted.

STAT. RULE 809.32 and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). J.M. was furnished a copy of the report but has submitted no response. Upon consideration of the report and an independent review of the record, we are satisfied that the appeal has no merit. We summarily affirm the order, *see* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21, and grant J.M.'s counsel's motion to withdraw.

J.M. has been diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, bipolar type. His treating psychiatrist testified at the medication hearing that J.M. requires psychotropic medications to stabilize his mood, impulsivity, and aggression, but refuses to take them as ordered or at all, as he does not believe he is mentally ill and therefore does not think he needs them. A letter the doctor submitted to the court stated that, as a result of not taking his medications as prescribed, J.M. has become violent, assaulted another inmate in the unit, and continues to be a danger to others. The court found that J.M. is substantially incapable of applying an understanding of the medications' advantages, disadvantages, and alternatives to his condition so as to make an informed choice as to whether to accept or refuse them. It ordered that J.M. be involuntarily medicated while committed or until further order of the court. This no-merit appeal followed.

The no-merit report raises a single issue: whether sufficient evidence was presented at the medication hearing to allow a finding that J.M. was not competent to refuse medication or treatment. The report thoroughly addresses the issue and applies the proper standards. As we agree with counsel's conclusion that it presents no point of arguable merit, we address it no further.

Our review of the record discloses no other potential issues for appeal. Accordingly, this court accepts the no-merit report, affirms the order, and discharges appellate counsel of the obligation to represent J.M. further in this appeal.

No. 2018AP1834-NM

Upon the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that the order for involuntary medication is summarily affirmed. *See* Wis. Stat. Rule 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Gregory Bates is relieved from further representing J.M. in this appeal. *See* 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