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**DISTRICT II**

February 24, 2021

To:

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

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2020AP1236-CRNM	State of Wisconsin v. Douglas R. Sovereign (L.C. #2017CF372)
2020AP1237-CRNM	State of Wisconsin v. Douglas R. Sovereign (L.C. #2018CF181)

Before Neubauer, C.J., Reilly, P.J., and Gundrum, J.

**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 cases, Douglas R. Sovereign appeals from judgments convicting him of felony bail jumping, violating the sex offender registry, and violating a condition of lifetime supervision. His appellate counsel filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE

809.32 (2017-18)<sup>1</sup> and *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738 (1967). Sovereign received a copy of the report, was advised of his right to file a response, and has elected not to do so. Upon consideration of the report and an independent review of the records, we conclude that the judgments may be summarily affirmed because there are no issues with arguable merit for appeal. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

Sovereign was convicted following no contest pleas to felony bail jumping, violating the sex offender registry, and violating a condition of lifetime supervision.<sup>2</sup> He was accused of failing to comply with a bond condition by possessing an internet-enabled device. He was also accused of failing to disclose information regarding his online accounts/internet identifiers and having contact with a child near a school. For his actions, the circuit court imposed an aggregate sentence of four years of initial confinement and four years of extended supervision.

The no-merit report addresses whether Sovereign's no contest pleas were knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently entered. The record shows that the circuit court engaged in a colloquy with Sovereign that satisfied the applicable requirements of WIS. STAT. § 971.08(1) and *State v. Brown*, 2006 WI 100, ¶35, 293 Wis. 2d 594, 716 N.W.2d 906. In addition, a signed plea questionnaire and waiver of rights form was entered into the records. We agree with counsel that a challenge to the entry of Sovereign's no contest pleas would lack arguable merit.

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<sup>1</sup> All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2017-18 version unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> Sovereign was convicted of a serious sex offense in 2007 and placed on lifetime supervision pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 939.615.

The no-merit report also addresses whether the circuit court properly exercised its discretion at sentencing. The record reveals that the court’s sentencing decision had a “rational and explainable basis.” *State v. Gallion*, 2004 WI 42, ¶76, 270 Wis. 2d 535, 678 N.W.2d 197 (citation omitted). The court considered the seriousness of the offenses, Sovereign’s character, and the need to protect the public. *State v. Ziegler*, 2006 WI App 49, ¶23, 289 Wis. 2d 594, 712 N.W.2d 76. Under the circumstances of the cases, the sentence imposed does not “shock public sentiment and violate the judgment of reasonable people concerning what is right and proper.” *Ocanas v. State*, 70 Wis. 2d 179, 185, 233 N.W.2d 457 (1975). We agree with counsel that a challenge to Sovereign’s sentence would lack arguable merit.<sup>3</sup>

Our review of the records discloses no other potential issues for appeal.<sup>4</sup> Accordingly, this court accepts the no-merit report, affirms the judgments of conviction, and discharges appellate counsel of the obligation to represent Sovereign further in these appeals.

Upon the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that the judgments of the circuit court are summarily affirmed. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

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<sup>3</sup> The judgments of conviction also properly reflect the imposition of mandatory DNA surcharges.

<sup>4</sup> Sovereign did file a motion to withdraw his pleas prior to sentencing. However, he subsequently withdrew it. Thus, we deem the issue abandoned and will not discuss it further. *See State v. Woods*, 144 Wis. 2d 710, 716, 424 N.W.2d 730 (Ct. App. 1988) (motion made but not pursued is abandoned).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorney Andrew H. Morgan is relieved of further representation of Douglas R. Sovereign in these appeals. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.32(3).

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

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*Sheila T. Reiff*  
*Clerk of Court of Appeals*