



OFFICE OF THE CLERK
WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

110 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 215
P.O. BOX 1688
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688
Telephone (608) 266-1880
TTY: (800) 947-3529
Facsimile (608) 267-0640
Web Site: www.wicourts.gov

DISTRICT II

June 29, 2022

To:

Hon. Gerad Dougville
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Erica Reinke
Electronic Notice

Rebecca Matoska-Mentink
Juvenile Clerk
Kenosha County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

J.L.G.

Stephanie R. Prasser
Prasser Law & Advocacy LLC
P.O. Box 968
Bristol, WI 53104

Susan E. Alesia
Electronic Notice

Kelsey Jarecki Morin Loshaw
Electronic Notice

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

2022AP766-NM

Kenosha County DHS v. J.L.G. (L.C. #2021TP52)

Before Neubauer, 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.L.G. appeals from an order terminating his parental rights to his daughter, E.M.G. J.L.G.'s appellate counsel filed a no-merit report pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULES 809.107(5m) and 809.32. J.L.G. received a copy of the report, was advised of his right to file a response, and has

¹ This appeal is decided by one judge pursuant to WIS. STAT. § 752.31(2)(e) (2019-20). All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2019-20 version unless otherwise noted.

elected not to do so. After reviewing the record and counsel's report, we conclude there are no issues with arguable merit for appeal. We summarily affirm the order. WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

E.M.G. was taken into protective custody shortly after her birth in February 2020 due to substance exposure. She was subsequently found to be a child in need of protection or services. Paternity was not established until nearly a year later when it was determined that J.L.G. was the father.

In July 2021, the Kenosha County Department of Human Services petitioned to terminate J.L.G.'s parental rights. The County moved for partial summary judgment on two grounds: child abuse and commission of a felony against a child.² The circuit court granted summary judgment on those grounds and terminated J.L.G.'s parental rights after a dispositional hearing. This no-merit appeal follows.

The no-merit report addresses potential issues of (1) whether the circuit court erred in granting the County's motion for partial summary judgment; and (2) whether the circuit court properly exercised its discretion in determining that termination of parental rights was in the best interest of E.M.G. This court is satisfied that the no-merit report correctly analyzes the issues it raises as being without merit, and we will not discuss them further.

Our independent review of the record does not disclose any other potentially meritorious issue for appeal. Because we conclude that there would be no arguable merit to any issue that

² J.L.G. had an unreversed felony conviction for aggravated battery of a child.

could be raised on appeal, we accept the no-merit report and relieve Attorneys Kelsey Jarecki Morin Loshaw and Susan E. Alesia of further representation in this matter.

Upon the foregoing reasons,

IT IS ORDERED that the order terminating J.L.G.'s parental rights is summarily affirmed pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Attorneys Kelsey Jarecki Morin Loshaw and Susan E. Alesia are relieved of further representation of J.L.G. in this matter. *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