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DISTRICT IV

July 18, 2024

To:

Hon. Karl Hanson
Circuit Court Judge
Electronic Notice

Tommie Lee Fredrick Simpson Sr.
359 W. Grand Ave.
Beloit, WI 53511

Amanda Nelson
Clerk of Circuit Court
Rock County Courthouse
Electronic Notice

Bridgett L. Jarrett
1390 Price Ave
Calumet City, IL 60409

Jennifer Leigh Nash Elliot
Electronic Notice

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

2023AP1270

In re the marriage of: Bridgett L. Jarrett v. Tommie Lee Fredrick
Simpson, Sr. (L.C. # 2015FA419)

Before Blanchard, Nashold, and Taylor, JJ.

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).

Bridgett L. Jarrett appeals a circuit court order that denied Jarrett's motion to modify custody, physical placement, and child support. Based upon our review of the appellant's brief

and record,¹ we conclude at conference that this case is appropriate for summary disposition. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21 (2021-22).² We summarily affirm.

Jarrett’s brief contains complaints about the circuit court proceedings in this matter. The brief fails, however, to develop coherent arguments that apply relevant legal authority to the facts of record.³ “A party must do more than simply toss a bunch of concepts into the air with the hope that either the ... court or the opposing party will arrange them into viable and fact-supported legal theories.” *State v. Jackson*, 229 Wis. 2d 328, 337, 600 N.W.2d 39 (Ct. App. 1999). Consequently, this court need not consider arguments that are unsupported by adequate factual and legal citations or are otherwise undeveloped. *See Grothe v. Valley Coatings, Inc.*, 2000 WI App 240, ¶6, 239 Wis. 2d 406, 620 N.W.2d 463, *abrogated on other grounds by Wiley v. M.M.N. Laufer Fam. Ltd. P’ship*, 2011 WI App 158, 338 Wis. 2d 178, 807 N.W.2d 236 (lack of record citations); *State v. Pettit*, 171 Wis. 2d 627, 646-47, 492 N.W.2d 633 (Ct. App. 1992) (undeveloped legal arguments). While we make some allowances for the failings of parties who, as here, are not represented by counsel, “[w]e cannot serve as both advocate and judge,” *Pettit*, 171 Wis. 2d at 647, and will not scour the record to develop viable, fact-supported legal theories on the appellant’s behalf, *Jackson*, 229 Wis. 2d at 337.

¹ The pro se respondent failed to file a respondent’s brief, and the guardian ad litem filed a letter stating that she would not be submitting a brief in this appeal.

² All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2021-22 version.

³ Additionally, to the extent that Jarrett intends to raise issues about matters not decided in the underlying circuit court proceedings—such as actions by the Rock County child support agency—those issues could not fall within the proper scope of this appeal. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.10(4) (“An appeal from a final judgment or final order brings before the court all prior nonfinal judgments, orders and rulings adverse to the appellant and favorable to the respondent *made in the action or proceeding* not previously appealed and ruled upon.” (emphasis added)).

Here, Jarrett fails to develop her arguments legally or to support them factually. We affirm the circuit court on that basis.

Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the order is summarily affirmed pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21.

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

Samuel A. Christensen
Clerk of Court of Appeals