

COURT OF APPEALS SECOND DISTRICT OF TEXAS FORT WORTH

NO. 2-08-409-CR

ANTHONY CHINOYE MADU

APPELLANT

٧.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

STATE

FROM THE 396TH DISTRICT COURT OF TARRANT COUNTY

MEMORANDUM OPINION¹

After waiving a jury and entering an open plea of guilty, appellant Anthony Chinoye Madu appeals his conviction and twenty-five-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault of a child. We affirm.

Appellant's court-appointed appellate counsel has filed a motion to withdraw as counsel and a brief in support of that motion. In the brief, counsel

¹... See Tex. R. App. P. 47.4.

avers that, in his professional opinion, the appeal is frivolous. Counsel's brief and motion meet the requirements of *Anders v. California*² by presenting a professional evaluation of the record demonstrating why there are no arguable grounds for relief. We gave appellant the opportunity to file a pro se brief, and he has filed one. The State has not filed a brief.

Once an appellant's court-appointed attorney files a motion to withdraw on the ground that the appeal is frivolous and fulfills the requirements of *Anders*, this court is obligated to undertake an independent examination of the record.³ Only then may we grant counsel's motion to withdraw.⁴

We have carefully reviewed the record, counsel's brief, and appellant's pro se brief. We agree with counsel that this appeal is wholly frivolous and without merit; we find nothing in the record that might arguably support the

²... 386 U.S. 738, 87 S. Ct. 1396 (1967).

³... See Stafford v. State, 813 S.W.2d 503, 511 (Tex. Crim. App. 1991); Mays v. State, 904 S.W.2d 920, 922–23 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth 1995, no pet.).

⁴... See Penson v. Ohio, 488 U.S. 75, 82–83, 109 S. Ct. 346, 351 (1988).

appeal. Accordingly, we grant counsel's motion to withdraw and affirm the trial court's judgment.

PER CURIAM

PANEL: CAYCE, C.J.; GARDNER and WALKER, JJ.

DO NOT PUBLISH Tex. R. App. P. 47.2(b)

DELIVERED: November 25, 2009

⁵... See Bledsoe v. State, 178 S.W.3d 824, 827–28 (Tex. Crim. App. 2005); see also Meza v. State, 206 S.W.3d 684, 685 n.6 (Tex. Crim. App. 2006).