



NUMBER 13-16-00630-CR

COURT OF APPEALS

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

CORPUS CHRISTI – EDINBURG

DONEL SALAZAR JR.,

Appellant,

v.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Appellee.

On appeal from the 370th District Court
of Hidalgo County, Texas.

MEMORANDUM OPINION

**Before Chief Justice Valdez and Justices Longoria and Hinojosa
Memorandum Opinion by Justice Longoria**

Appellant Donel Salazar Jr. was convicted of two counts of continuous sexual assault of a child. See TEX. PENAL CODE ANN. § 21.02 (West, Westlaw through 1st 2017 C.S.). The trial court sentenced him to thirty-five years' imprisonment. Salazar's court-appointed counsel has filed an *Anders* brief. See *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738, 744 (1967). We affirm.

I. **ANDERS BRIEF**

Pursuant to *Anders*, Salazar's court-appointed appellate counsel has filed a brief and a motion to withdraw with this Court, stating that his review of the record yielded no grounds of error upon which an appeal can be predicated. See *id.* Counsel's brief meets the requirements of *Anders* as it presents a professional evaluation demonstrating why there are no arguable grounds to advance on appeal. See *In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d 403, 407 n.9 (Tex. Crim. App. 2008) ("In Texas, an *Anders* brief need not specifically advance 'arguable' points of error if counsel finds none, but it must provide record references to the facts and procedural history and set out pertinent legal authorities.") (citing *Hawkins v. State*, 112 S.W.3d 340, 343–44 (Tex. App.—Corpus Christi 2003, no pet.)); *Stafford v. State*, 813 S.W.2d 503, 510 n.3 (Tex. Crim. App. 1991).

In compliance with *High v. State*, 573 S.W.2d 807, 813 (Tex. Crim. App. [Panel Op.] 1978), Salazar's counsel carefully discussed the evidence adduced at the trial, pointed out where pertinent testimony may be found in the record, referred to pages in the record where objections were made, the nature of the objection, the trial court's ruling, and discussed either why the trial court's ruling was correct or why Salazar was not harmed by the ruling of the court. Counsel has informed this Court, in writing, that counsel has: (1) notified Salazar that counsel has filed an *Anders* brief and a motion to withdraw; (2) provided Salazar with a copy of the *Anders* brief and motion to withdraw; (3) informed Salazar of his rights to file a pro se response¹ and review the record preparatory to filing

¹ The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has held that "the pro se response need not comply with the rules of appellate procedure in order to be considered. Rather, the response should identify for the court those issues which the indigent appellant believes the court should consider in deciding whether the case presents any meritorious issues." *In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d 403, 409 n.23 (Tex. Crim. App. 2008).

that response; and (4) provided Salazar with a form motion for pro se access to the appellate record with instructions to file the motion in this Court. See *Anders*, 386 U.S. at 744; *Kelly*, 436 S.W.3d at 319; *Stafford*, 813 S.W.2d at 510 n.3; see also *In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d at 409 n.23. More than adequate time has passed, and Salazar has not filed a response.

II. INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Upon receiving an *Anders* brief, we must conduct a full examination of all the proceedings to determine whether the case is wholly frivolous. *Penson v. Ohio*, 488 U.S. 75, 80 (1988). We may determine the appeal is wholly frivolous and issue an opinion after reviewing the record and finding no reversible error. *Bledsoe v. State*, 178 S.W.3d 824, 826–827 (Tex. Crim. App. 2005). Alternatively, if we determine that arguable grounds for appeal exist, we must remand for the appointment of new counsel to brief those issues. *Id.* at 827.

We have conducted an independent review of the record, including appellate counsel's brief and Salazar's pro se response, and find no reversible error. See *Anders*, 386 U.S. at 744; *Garner v. State*, 300 S.W.3d 763, 766 (Tex. Crim. App. 2009); *Bledsoe*, 178 S.W.3d at 826–27. We agree with counsel that the record presents no arguably meritorious grounds for review and the appeal is frivolous. See *Garner*, 300 S.W.3d at 766; *Bledsoe*, 178 S.W.3d at 827.

III. MOTION TO WITHDRAW

In accordance with *Anders*, Salazar's attorney has asked this Court for permission to withdraw as counsel. See *Anders*, 386 U.S. at 744; see also *In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d at 408 n.17 (citing *Jeffery v. State*, 903 S.W.2d 776, 779–80 (Tex. App.—Dallas

1995, no pet.) (“[I]f an attorney believes the appeal is frivolous, he must withdraw from representing the appellant. To withdraw from representation, the appointed attorney must file a motion to withdraw accompanied by a brief showing the appellate court that the appeal is frivolous.”) (citations omitted)). We grant counsel’s motion to withdraw. Within five days of the date of this Court’s opinion, counsel is ordered to send a copy of this opinion and this Court’s judgment to Salazar and to advise him of his right to file a petition for discretionary review.² See TEX. R. APP. P. 48.4; see also *In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d at 412 n.35; *Ex parte Owens*, 206 S.W.3d 670, 673 (Tex. Crim. App. 2006).

IV. CONCLUSION

Counsel’s motion to withdraw is granted. We affirm the trial court’s judgment.

NORA L. LONGORIA
Justice

Do not publish.
TEX. R. APP. P. 47.2(b).

Delivered and filed the
1st day of November, 2018.

² No substitute counsel will be appointed. If Salazar seeks further review of this case by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, he must either retain an attorney to file a petition for discretionary review or file a pro se petition for discretionary review. Any petition for discretionary review must be filed within thirty days from the date of either this opinion or the last timely motion for rehearing or timely motion for en banc reconsideration was overruled by this Court. See TEX. R. APP. P. 68.2. Any petition for discretionary review should comply with the requirements of Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 68.4. See *id.* R. 68.4.