



IN THE
TENTH COURT OF APPEALS

No. 10-14-00363-CR

NOLAN DEWAYNE THOMPKINS,

Appellant

v.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,

Appellee

From the 54th District Court
McLennan County, Texas
Trial Court No. 2013-1318-C2

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Appellant, Nolan Dewayne Thompkins, was charged by indictment with three counts of sexual assault. *See* TEX. PENAL CODE ANN. § 22.011 (West Supp. 2011). At the conclusion of the evidence, the jury found Thompkins guilty on all counts. Because he is a habitual-felony offender, Thompkins received a life sentence in the Institutional Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for each count. The trial court ordered that the sentences run concurrently and certified Thompkins's right of appeal. This appeal followed.

I. ANDERS BRIEF

Pursuant to *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S. 738, 744, 87 S. Ct. 1396, 1400, 18 L. Ed. 2d 493 (1967), Thompkins’s court-appointed appellate counsel 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. 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) (en banc).

In compliance with *High v. State*, 573 S.W.2d 807, 813 (Tex. Crim. App. [Panel Op.] 1978), Thompkins’s counsel has carefully discussed why, under controlling authority, there are no reversible errors in the trial court’s judgment. Counsel has informed this Court that he has: (1) examined the record and found no arguable grounds to advance on appeal; (2) served a copy of the brief and counsel’s motion to withdraw on Thompkins; and (3) provided Thompkins with a copy of the record and informed him of his right to file a pro se response.¹ See *Anders*, 386 U.S. at 744, 87 S. Ct. at 1400; *Stafford*, 813 S.W.2d at

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) (quoting *Wilson v. State*, 955 S.W.2d 693, 696-97 (Tex. App.—Waco 1997, no pet.)).

510 n.3; *see also In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d at 409 n.23. Thompkins has filed a pro se response.² *See In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d at 409.

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, 109 S. Ct. 346, 349-50, 102 L. Ed. 2d 300 (1988). We have reviewed the entire record, counsel's brief, and Thompkins's pro se response and have found nothing that would arguably support an appeal. *See Bledsoe v. State*, 178 S.W.3d 824, 827-28 (Tex. Crim. App. 2005) ("Due to the nature of *Anders* briefs, by indicating in the opinion that it considered the issues raised in the briefs and reviewed the record for reversible error but found none, the court of appeals met the requirement of Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 47.1."); *Stafford*, 813 S.W.2d at 509. Accordingly, we affirm the judgment of the trial court.

III. MOTION TO WITHDRAW

In accordance with *Anders*, Thompkins's attorney has asked this Court for permission to withdraw as counsel in this case. *See Anders*, 386 U.S. at 744, 87 S. Ct. at 1400; *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.) ("If 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

² In his transmittal letter to Thompkins, appellate counsel indicated that he provided Thompkins with a copy of the record in this case. Thompkins confirmed this fact in a recent motion for extension of time to file his pro se response. Accordingly, we have fair assurance that Thompkins has received a copy of the record. *See Kelly v. State*, 436 S.W.3d 313, 321-22 (Tex. Crim. App. 2014).

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 Thompkins and to advise him of his right to file a petition for discretionary review.³ 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).

AL SCOGGINS
Justice

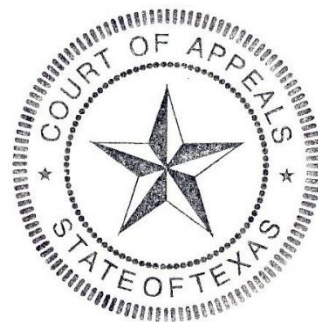
Before Chief Justice Gray,
Justice Davis, and
Justice Scoggins

Affirmed

Opinion delivered and filed January 7, 2016

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³ No substitute counsel will be appointed. Should Thompkins wish to seek 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 must file a pro se petition for discretionary review. Any petition for discretionary review must be filed within thirty days from the date of 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 and all copies of the petition for discretionary review must be filed with the Clerk of the Court of Criminal Appeals. See *id.* at R. 68.3. Any petition for discretionary review should comply with the requirements of rule 68.4 of the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure. See *id.* at R. 68.4; see also *In re Schulman*, 252 S.W.3d at 409 n.22.