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IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT

DIVISION FIVE

THE PEOPLE,

Plaintiff and Respondent,

v.

JOSEPH JOHN DOUCHETTE,

Defendant and Appellant.

A172636

(Sonoma County
Superior Court No.
23CR01492)

Defendant and appellant Joseph John Douchette (appellant) appeals from the judgment entered following his no contest plea to voluntary manslaughter (Pen. Code § 192, subd. (a))¹ with a deadly weapon enhancement (§ 12022, subd. (b)). Appellant's counsel has raised no issue on appeal and asks this court for an independent review of the record to determine whether there are any arguable issues. (*Anders v. California* (1967) 386 U.S. 738; *People v. Wende* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436.) We have reviewed the record, find no arguable issues, and affirm.

BACKGROUND

In July 2024, the Sonoma County District Attorney filed an information charging appellant with murder (§ 187, subd. (a); count one) and elder abuse resulting in death (§ 368, subds. (b)(1), (b)(3); count two), with enhancement

¹ All undesignated statutory references are to the Penal Code.

and aggravating factor allegations. The charge was based on an October 2023 incident during which appellant shot and killed his landlord with a pellet gun during an argument.

In October 2024, the district attorney amended the information to add a voluntary manslaughter charge (§ 192, subd. (a); count three), with a deadly weapon enhancement (§ 12022, subd. (b)). Appellant pled no contest to count three, and admitted the enhancement and four aggravating factors. The plea was pursuant to an agreement that he would receive a sentence of up to 12 years; the district attorney agreed to dismiss the remaining charges.

The trial court sentenced appellant in December 2024 and then amended the abstract of judgment in April 2025.² The April 2025 sentence was comprised of the upper term of 11 years for voluntary manslaughter and a consecutive one-year term for the enhancement. The court also imposed fines and fees.

DISCUSSION

Appellant’s no contest plea restricts the scope of the appeal before us. Because he did not obtain a certificate of probable cause, his appeal is limited to “postplea claims, including sentencing issues, that do not challenge the validity of the plea.” (*People v. Cuevas* (2008) 44 Cal.4th 374, 379.) The sentence imposed by the court was proper, as were the fines and assessments.

Appellate counsel advised appellant of his right to file a supplemental brief to bring to this court’s attention any issue he believes deserves review. (See *People v. Kelly* (2006) 40 Cal.4th 106.) Appellant did not file a supplemental brief. There are no legal issues that require further briefing.

² The original abstract of judgment mistakenly reflected that the trial court imposed a 12-year term for voluntary manslaughter in December 2024; the amended abstract of judgment was consistent with the court’s prior oral pronouncement.

DISPOSITION

The trial court's judgment is affirmed.

SIMONS, Acting P. J.

We concur.

BURNS, J.

CHOU, J.

(A172636)