

No. 1-12-3776

NOTICE: This order was filed under Supreme Court Rule 23 and may not be cited as precedent by any party except in the limited circumstances allowed under Rule 23(e)(1).

IN THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

THERESA RAY,)	Appeal from the
)	Circuit Court of
Plaintiff-Appellant,)	Cook County.
)	
v.)	No. 12 M1 300032
)	
ADVOCATE HEALTH CENTERS,)	Honorable
)	James E. Snyder,
Defendant-Appellee.)	Judge Presiding.

PRESIDING JUSTICE CONNORS delivered the judgment of the court.
Justices Cunningham and Delort concurred in the judgment.

ORDER

¶ 1 *Held:* Where plaintiff appealed circuit court's entry of judgment on arbitration award without having first filed a rejection of the award, plaintiff lacked ability to obtain reversal of the award; the circuit court's judgment was affirmed.

¶ 2 Plaintiff Theresa Ray appeals *pro se* from the circuit court's judgment entering an arbitration award in favor of defendant Advocate Health Centers (Advocate). Ray has filed an appeal to this court in an apparent challenge to that award. We affirm.

¶ 3 On January 5, 2012, Ray filed a *pro se* personal injury complaint in the circuit court alleging she was struck on the back of the head by a parking lot access gate in the parking lot of the "Advocate Building 25th and King Drive." Ray alleged she was "put down to the ground" as a result of the blow and that she sought damages for the parking lot attendant's negligence and her "severe pain and discomfort." In May 2012, Ray amended her complaint to state that the incident described in her earlier filing occurred on January 6, 2011, and to provide an address for the facility. Ray repeated her earlier allegations and stated that her accident would not have occurred had a warning signal cautioned her as to the gate's lowering.

¶ 4 At an October 5, 2012 mandatory arbitration hearing, the arbitrators entered an award against Ray. On December 5, 2012, the circuit court entered judgment on the arbitration award in favor of Advocate and against Ray. On December 26, 2012, Ray filed a notice of appeal. In the line on the notice of appeal form asking what relief is sought from the reviewing court, Ray wrote: "The attorney completed 1 false statement referring to size of steel gate and presented my past suits."

¶ 5 Initially, we note that Ray's brief on appeal consists solely of her assertions and is devoid of any legal reasoning or citation to legal precedent that would support the invalidity of the entry of the arbitration award. Arguments to this court must be supported by citations to relevant authority (Ill. S. Ct. R. 341(h)(7) (eff. July 1, 2008)), and a reviewing court need not address arguments devoid of such authority. See *In re Jovan A.*, 2013 IL App (1st) 103835, ¶ 17.

¶ 6 Moreover, although Ray takes issue with the entry of the arbitration award in Advocate's favor, she has not included a copy of the arbitrators' award in the record on appeal. It is Ray's burden, as the appellant, to present a sufficiently complete record to support her claims, and any doubts arising from the incompleteness of the record will be resolved against her. See *Foutch v.*

O'Bryant, 99 Ill. 2d 389, 391-92 (1984). Absent a record, the reviewing court must indulge in every reasonable presumption favorable to the judgment and will presume the trial court followed the law and had a sufficient basis for its ruling. *Id.*; see also *Lewandowski v. Jelenski*, 401 Ill. App. 3d 893, 902 (2010).

¶ 7 Even if we were to overlook those points, Ray cannot obtain a reversal of the arbitration award because she did not file a rejection of the arbitration award. Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 93(a) (eff. Jan. 1, 1997), within 30 days after the filing of an arbitration award, any party present at the arbitration hearing may file a written notice of rejection of the award and proceed to trial. The filing of a rejection of the arbitration award is the "sole intended remedy from an award." *Hinkle v. Womack*, 303 Ill. App 3d 105, 115 (1999); see also *Babcock v. Wallace*, 2012 IL App (1st) 111090, ¶¶ 16-17, quoting *Cruz v. Northwestern Chrysler Plymouth Sales, Inc.*, 179 Ill. 2d 271, 279 (1997) (noting that if no party has filed a notice of the rejection of an arbitration award and a request to proceed to trial within the specified time period, the circuit court "has no real function beyond entering judgment on the award"). For those reasons, plaintiff cannot now challenge the arbitration award in this court.

¶ 8 Accordingly, the circuit court's entry of the judgment on the arbitration award in this case is affirmed.

¶ 9 Affirmed.

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