

IN RE C.R.

Submitted on Briefs December 13, 2013  
Decided January 14, 2014

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and ALEXANDER, LEVY, MEAD, GORMAN, and  
JABAR, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The father of C.R. appeals from the judgment of the District Court (Skowhegan, *Mullen, J.*) terminating his parental rights. Contrary to the father's contentions, the court did not commit obvious error when it terminated his parental rights following a trial at which he failed to appear, but at which his attorney appeared and did not object to the adequacy of the notice contained in the termination petition. *See In re Priscilla D.*, 2010 ME 103, ¶ 16, 5 A.3d 677 (holding that a party waived the defense of insufficient service of process by participating in a termination hearing without objection). Because the father was properly notified of the scheduling of the trial, the defect in the notice contained in the termination petition did not deprive the father of a fair trial, nor did it result in a substantial injustice. *See In re William S.*, 2000 ME 34, ¶ 8, 745 A.2d 991 (discussing obvious error standard of review).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

---

**On the briefs:**

N. Seth Levy, Esq., Brunswick, for the appellant father

Janet T. Mills, Attorney General, and Nora Sosnoff, Asst. Atty.  
Gen., Office of Attorney General, Augusta, for appellee  
Department of Health and Human Services

Skowhegan District Court docket number PC-2011-25  
FOR CLERKS REFERENCE ONLY