

IN RE JEFFREY L.

Submitted on Briefs October 13, 2016

Decided November 3, 2016

Panel: ALEXANDER, MEAD, GORMAN, JABAR, HJELM, and HUMPHREY, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother of Jeffrey L. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Bangor, *Campbell, J.*) terminating her parental rights to her child.

Contrary to the mother's contentions, the evidence supports the court's finding that there are two grounds for parental unfitness. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2) (2015); *In re M.B.*, 2013 ME 46, ¶ 37, 65 A.3d 1260. As the court found, the mother has not been able to effectively manage her chronic substance abuse problem, as is demonstrated by intermittent positive tests for opiates and amphetamines even during the time she sought to reunify with the child and while the termination petition was pending; and the mother's failure to fully participate in drug testing. Also, the mother is unable to recognize risks posed to her child by unsafe people, as is shown by her contact with a person who had sexually abused his children and whose own parental rights had been terminated; her exposure of her child to that person during a trial home placement; and her refusal to participate in court-ordered non-offender counseling.

Additionally, the court did not abuse its discretion in determining, based on clear and convincing evidence in the record, that termination of the mother's parental rights is in the best interest of the child. *In re M.S.*, 2014 ME 54, ¶ 15, 90 A.3d 443.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

On the briefs:

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Janet T. Mills, Attorney General, and Meghan Szylvian, Asst.
Atty. Gen., Office of the Attorney General, Augusta, for
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