

IN RE TRENTYN F. et al.

Submitted on Briefs January 19, 2017

Decided January 26, 2017

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother of Trentyn F. and Jordyn F. appeals from a judgment entered in the District Court (Waterville, *R.A. French, J.*) terminating her parental rights to the children pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2) (2016). After review of the record, we are not persuaded by the mother's argument that she was unduly prejudiced when the court determined that "permanency for the children need[ed] to be addressed as soon as possible" and conducted the termination proceedings before the Department could accomplish service upon the children's father. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4056(2) (2016) ("The termination of one parent's rights shall not affect the rights of the other parent.").

In addition, contrary to the mother's contentions, there is sufficient evidence in the record to support the court's findings, by clear and convincing evidence, of at least one ground of parental unfitness and that termination is in the best interests of the children. *See* 22 M.R.S. §§ 4050(2); 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b)(i), (b)(ii) (2016); *In re R.M.*, 2015 ME 38, ¶ 7, 114 A.3d 212; *In re B.C.*, 2014 ME 99, ¶ 1 n.1, 97 A.3d 1086. Nor did the court abuse its discretion in determining that termination is in the children's best interests. *See In re Thomas H.*, 2005 ME 123, ¶ 16, 889 A.2d 297. We therefore affirm the judgment.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Richard W. McCarthy, Jr., Esq., Pittsfield, for appellant mother

Janet T. Mills, Attorney General, Jaime Shorter, Stud. Atty., and Meghan Szylvian, Asst. Atty. Gen., Office of the Attorney General, Augusta, for appellee
Department of Health and Human Services

Waterville District Court docket number PC-2013-35
FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY