

IN RE CHILDREN OF MATTHEW M.

Submitted on Briefs September 29, 2020

Decided October 6, 2020

Panel: MEAD, GORMAN, JABAR, HUMPHREY, HORTON, and CONNORS, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The father of three children appeals from a judgment entered by the District Court (Ellsworth, *Roberts, J.*) terminating his parental rights to the children. Contrary to the father's contentions, the Department's failure to comply with obligations imposed on it pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4041 (2020) does not preclude the termination of parental rights. *See In re Child of Amelia C.*, 2020 ME 28, ¶ 8, 227 A.3d 156. The court did not err or abuse its discretion in determining that, despite the father's recent progress, he remains unable to protect the children from jeopardy or take responsibility for them within a time reasonably calculated to meet their needs for a consistent, stable home, and the termination of his parental rights is in the children's best interests. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b)(i), (ii) (2020).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Robert Van Horn, Esq., Van Horn Law Office, Ellsworth, for appellant father

Aaron M. Frey, Attorney General, and Hunter C. Umphrey, Asst. Atty. Gen., Office of the Attorney General, Augusta, for appellee Department of Health and Human Services

Ellsworth District Court docket number PC-2018-21
FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY