

IN RE CHILDREN OF KRYSTAL L.

Submitted on Briefs September 29, 2020

Decided October 20, 2020

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Krystal L., the mother, and Bryant F., the father, separately appeal from a judgment of the District Court (Portland, *Eggert, J.*) terminating their parental rights to their three children. Both parents argue that the court erred in finding that they are parentally unfit, that termination of their parental rights is in the children's best interests, and that the Department of Health and Human Services engaged in adequate rehabilitation and reunification efforts. However, the record, including the evidence presented at the hearing on the Department's petition to terminate the parents' parental rights, *see* 22 M.R.S. § 4052 (2020), provides ample support for the court's determination, by clear and convincing evidence, that (1) the parents are unwilling or unable to protect the children from jeopardy and that these circumstances are unlikely to change within a time that is reasonably calculated to meet the children's needs; (2) the parents have been unwilling or unable to take responsibility for the children within a time reasonably calculated to meet the children's needs; (3) the parents failed to make good faith efforts to rehabilitate and reunify with the children; and (4) termination of the parents' parental rights is in the children's best interests. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b)(i)-(ii), (iv) (2020). In particular, the parents' failures to obtain suitable housing for the three children and to address their substance misuse, the mother's convictions and incarceration during the pendency of this case, and the father's failure to engage in any aspect of rehabilitation and reunification for several months

prior to the termination hearing all support the court's determinations that the mother and the father are unfit parents. *See id.*

Furthermore, the court found, with support in the record, that the children have made significant emotional and behavioral improvements while in custody of the Department. The court also reasonably determined that the children's need for stability and permanency would be best served by terminating the parents' parental rights and freeing the children for adoption. On this record, we cannot say that the court erred or abused its discretion in concluding that termination of the parents' parental rights is in the children's best interests. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a); *In re Cameron B.*, 2017 ME 18, ¶ 11, 154 A.3d 1199.

Finally, we are not persuaded by the parents' arguments that the Department failed to provide adequate rehabilitation and reunification services. The court found, and the record demonstrates, that the Department offered the parents numerous rehabilitative services, including family team meetings, counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting education, and visitation. *See In re Child of Nicholas W.*, 2020 ME 16, ¶ 8, 225 A.3d 1290.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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Kristina Dougherty, Esq., Chester & Vestal, P.A., Portland, for appellant mother

Ashley T. Perry, Esq., Sanders, Hanstein & Carey, P.A., Farmington, 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