

IN RE CHILD OF JAMES S.

Submitted on Briefs November 4, 2020

Decided November 12, 2020

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

James S. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (South Paris, *Ham-Thompson, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his child. Contrary to his contentions, the record provides ample support for the court's determination, by clear and convincing evidence, of at least one ground of unfitness and that termination of the father's parental rights is in the child's best interests. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b)(i)-(ii) (2020); *In re Cameron B.*, 2017 ME 18, ¶ 11, 154 A.3d 1199. Furthermore, the court was not, on this record, compelled to find that the father had proved that counsel's performance was so prejudicial that it undermined faith that the trial produced a just result. *See In re Children of Jeremy A.*, 2018 ME 82, ¶ 21, 187 A.3d 602; *Philbrook v. State*, 2017 ME 162, ¶ 9, 167 A.3d 1266.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

---

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

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

South Paris District Court docket number PC-2018-5

FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY