

IN RE CHILDREN OF MARCUS H.

Submitted on Briefs December 28, 2022

Decided January 5, 2023

Panel: STANFILL, C.J., and MEAD, JABAR, HORTON, and CONNORS, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Marcus H. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Augusta, *Gilbert, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his two young children. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(ii)-(iv) (2022). Contrary to the father's contention, the court did not err in finding parental unfitness based on the father's inability to take responsibility for the children within a time reasonably calculated to meet their needs, his abandonment of the children by failing to maintain meaningful contact with them for more than six months, and his failure to make a good-faith effort to participate and make progress in services to prepare him to take responsibility for them. *See id.* § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(ii)-(iv); 22 M.R.S. § 4002(1-A)(A), (B) (2022); *In re Child of Louise G.*, 2020 ME 87, ¶¶ 8-10, 236 A.3d 445. Nor did the court err or abuse its discretion in determining that termination of the father's parental rights was in the best interests of the children, who have been in the Department's custody for a year and a half of their young lives, have not had in-person contact with the father since November 2021, are thriving in their resource home, and need permanency. 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a); *In re Child of Louise G.*, 2020 ME 87, ¶ 11, 236 A.3d 445; *In re Cameron B.*, 2017 ME 18, ¶ 11, 154 A.3d 1199.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Henry W. Griffin, Esq., Auburn, for appellant Marcus H.

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

Augusta District Court docket number PC-2020-47  
FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY