

IN RE CHILD OF GUNNAR B.

Submitted on Briefs September 27, 2023  
Decided October 12, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Gunnar B. and the mother appeal from a judgment of the District Court (Portland, *Woodman, J.*) terminating their parental rights to their child.<sup>1</sup> *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(i), (ii) (2023). Contrary to the parents' contentions, the record contains sufficient competent evidence to support the trial court's findings that they are unwilling or unable to protect the child from jeopardy within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs, and that they are unwilling or unable to take responsibility for the child within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs. *See id.* § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i), (ii); *In re Child of Amber D.*, 2020 ME 30, ¶ 6, 226 A.3d 1157. Furthermore, the trial court did not err or abuse its discretion in determining that the child's best interests were served by termination of the parents' parental rights. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a); *In re Child of Sherri Y.*, 2019 ME 162, ¶¶ 5, 7, 221 A.3d 120. The trial court did not violate the parents' due process or equal protection rights. Me. Const. art. 1, § 6-A; U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1; *see In re Child of Scott A.*, 2019 ME 123, ¶ 12, 213 A.3d 117; *In re Cameron W.*, 2010 ME 101, ¶ 2, 5 A.3d 668; *In re Kafia M.*, 1999 ME 195, ¶ 14, 742 A.2d 919. Finally, the court did not err or abuse its discretion by

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<sup>1</sup> Contrary to Gunnar B.'s argument that clerical errors affect the validity of the order, the court's analysis makes clear its meaning. *See In re Child of Bethmarie R.*, 2018 ME 96, ¶ 9 n.7, 189 A.3d 252.

excluding collateral impeachment evidence. *See State v. Tieman*, 2019 ME 60, ¶ 12, 207 A.3d 618; *State v. Marr*, 551 A.2d 456, 458 (Me. 1988); *State v. Allen*, 462 A.2d 49, 52 (Me. 1983).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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Daniel D. Feldman, Esq., Law Office of Daniel Feldman, LLC, Yarmouth, for appellant Gunnar B.

Jason A. MacLean, Esq., Bridgton, for appellant mother

Christopher C. Taub, Chief Deputy Attorney General, and Hunter C. Umphrey, Asst. Atty. Gen., Office of the Attorney General, Bangor, for appellee Department of Health and Human Services

Portland District Court docket number PC-2021-2  
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