

IN RE CHILD OF REINAH E.

Submitted on Briefs November 29, 2023

Decided December 7, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother appeals from an order of the District Court (Waterville, *Montgomery, J.*) terminating her parental rights. She argues that the evidence was not sufficient to support the court's findings that she was unable or unwilling to protect the child from jeopardy or take responsibility for the child within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs. 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i), (ii) (2023). We disagree because competent evidence in the record indicates that the mother failed to complete required counseling sessions and parenting classes in a timely manner, and that she continued to prioritize intimate relationships with unsafe partners over the safety of the child. *See In re Children of Quincy A.*, 2023 ME 49, ¶¶ 10-13, 300 A.3d 832; *In re Isabelle W.*, 2017 ME 81, ¶¶ 5, 7, 159 A.3d 1225; *In re Allison H.*, 1999 ME 176, ¶ 6, 740 A.2d 997; *In re Child of Shaina T.*, 2019 ME 107, ¶ 13, 211 A.3d 229.

The mother also argues that the court abused its discretion in concluding that termination of parental rights was in the child's best interest. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a); *In re Children of Quincy A.*, 2023 ME 49, ¶ 10, 300 A.3d 832. We disagree on this point as well, because the court properly considered that the mother is currently unable to protect the child from jeopardy, that the child has thrived in its resource placement, and that termination would provide much needed permanency and stability for the child. *See In re Children of Brandon D.*, 2020 ME 80, ¶ 19, 235 A.3d 831; *In re Caleb M.*, 2017 ME 66, ¶ 34, 159 A.3d 345.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

---

Neil J. Prendergast, Esq., Fort Kent, for appellant Reinah E.

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

Waterville District Court docket number PC-2021-38  
FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY