

IN RE CHILD OF THOMAS B.

Submitted on Briefs November 29, 2023

Decided December 7, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Thomas B. and the mother appeal from a judgment of the District Court (Farmington, *Mohlar, J.*) terminating their parental rights to the child. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(i), (iv) (2023). Contrary to the father’s contention, the record contains competent evidence to support the trial court’s findings that the father is unable to protect the child from jeopardy within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child’s needs and that termination of his rights is in the best interest of the child, and the court did not abuse its discretion in determining that termination of the father’s parental rights is in the child’s best interest.¹ *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(B)(2)(a), (b)(i); *In re Child of Kelcie L.*, 2018 ME 57, ¶ 3, 184 A.3d 287; *In re Child of Katherine C.*, 2019 ME 146, ¶ 2, 217 A.3d 68; *In re Children of Jason C.*, 2020 ME 86, ¶ 7, 236 A.3d 438.

Additionally, the court did not violate the mother’s due process rights. *See In re Child of Shayla S.*, 2019 ME 68, 207 A.3d 1207; *In re Child of Scott A.*,

¹ Although the mother did not challenge the sufficiency of the evidence, we have reviewed the record and there is competent evidence to support the court’s findings that she is unfit and that termination of her parental rights is in the child’s best interest, and the court did not abuse its discretion in determining that termination of her parental rights is in the child’s best interest. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(B)(2)(a), (b)(i), (iv); *In re Kaleb C.*, 2002 ME 65, ¶ 7, 795 A.2d 71.

2019 ME 123, ¶ 12, 213 A.3d 117; *In re Children of Brandon D.*, 2020 ME 80, ¶ 14, 235 A.3d 831; *In re D.P.*, 2013 ME 40, ¶¶ 13-14, 65 A.3d 1216.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Seth Berner, Esq., Portland, for appellant father

Allison Muir Kuhns, Esq., Law Office of Allison Muir Kuhns, Portland, for appellant mother

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

Farmington District Court docket number PC-2020-11
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