

IN RE CHILDREN OF CHELSEA M.

Submitted on Briefs December 28, 2022

Decided January 5, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Chelsea M. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Bangor, *Roberts, J.*) terminating her parental rights to her children pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(i)-(iv) (2022).<sup>1</sup> Contrary to her contention, the court did not abuse its discretion or deny her procedural due process when she failed to appear for the termination hearing after receiving proper notice and the court denied her attorney's motion to continue the hearing. *See In re Child of Kenneth S.*, 2022 ME 14, ¶ 23, 269 A.3d 242; *In re Child of Raul R.*, 2019 ME 94, ¶¶ 9-11, 209 A.3d 757; *In re Trever I.*, 2009 ME 59, ¶ 28, 973 A.2d 752.

We also conclude that the evidence was sufficient to support the court's finding by clear and convincing evidence of at least one statutory ground of parental unfitness, and on this record its determination that termination of the mother's parental rights was in the children's best interests was not an abuse

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<sup>1</sup> The parental rights of one child's father were terminated following the same hearing; he has not appealed. A hearing on the petition to terminate the parental rights of the father of two other children was continued; his matter is not at issue here.

of the court's discretion. *See In re Children of Loretta M.*, 2020 ME 121, ¶ 1, 239 A.3d 671; *In re Children of Jason C.*, 2020 ME 86, ¶ 7, 236 A.3d 438.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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Brittany Sawyer, Esq., Holmes Legal Group, LLC, Wells, for appellant Chelsea M.

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

Bangor District Court docket numbers PC-2021-174 and PC-2021-217  
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