

IN RE CHILD OF DOMINIC K.

Submitted on Briefs January 25, 2023

Decided February 2, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The father and mother appeal from a judgment of the District Court (Portland, *Powers, J.*) terminating their parental rights pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2) (2022).¹ Contrary to the father's contentions,² there is no error in the court's termination of the father's parental rights because there is sufficient evidence in the record to support the court's parental unfitness and best interest findings by clear and convincing evidence, and the court did not abuse its discretion in concluding that termination of the father's parental rights was in his child's best interest. See 22 M.R.S. §§ 4050(2)-(3), 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i)-(ii) (2022); *In re Alana S.*, 2002 ME 126, ¶¶ 13, 21-23, 802 A.2d 976; *In re Child of Walter C.*, 2019 ME 121, ¶¶ 6-7, 213 A.3d 113; *In re Thomas H.*, 2005 ME 123, ¶¶ 22-34, 889 A.2d 297.

¹ The mother's counsel filed a brief including a procedural history, a statement of facts, and a statement that he did not believe there were any arguable issues of merit on appeal. See *In re M.C.*, 2014 ME 128, ¶ 7, 104 A.3d 139. The mother was authorized to file a supplemental brief, but she did not. There is sufficient competent evidence in the record to support the trial court's findings of parental unfitness and its determination that terminating the mother's parental rights was in the best interests of the children, and the court did not abuse its discretion in making the best-interests determination.

² While the mother is the mother of both children at issue, the father is the father only as to the younger child.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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

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

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

Portland District Court docket numbers PC-2020-57 and PC-2020-58
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