

IN RE CHILD OF SH'QUITIA M.

Submitted on Briefs January 25, 2023

Decided February 2, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Sh'Quitia M. and the father appeal from a judgment of the District Court (Portland, *Powers, A.R.J.*) terminating their parental rights to their child. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2) (2022). Contrary to the mother's assertion that the Department filed a petition too early, the Department may petition for termination at any time. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4052(1) (2022); *In re Jeremiah Y.*, 2002 ME 135 ¶ 8, 804 A.2d 357. In addition, contrary to both parents' contentions, the trial court did not err in finding that the parents were unfit.<sup>1</sup> *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i)-(iv); 22 M.R.S. 4002(1-A)(E) (2022); *In re Ryan G.*, 2017 ME 214, ¶¶ 2, 3, 6, 173 A.3d 142; *In re Children of Christine M.*, 2018 ME 133, ¶¶ 3-4, 7-8, 194 A.3d 390; *In re Olivia F.*, 2019 ME 149, ¶ 7, 217 A.3d 1106.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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<sup>1</sup> Neither parent takes issue with the court's best interest determination. Nonetheless, the facts, viewed through the trial court's lens, reveal that the court did not err in making its factual findings or abuse its discretion in determining that termination is in the child's best interest. *See In re R.M.*, 2015 ME 38, ¶ 7, 114 A.3d 212.

Jeffrey S. Dolley, Esq., Lewiston, for appellant Mother

Jason A. MacLean, Esq., Bridgton, 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 number PC-2021-62  
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