

IN RE CHILDREN OF JOSEPH S.

Submitted on Briefs February 22, 2023  
Decided March 2, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Joseph S. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Biddeford, *Duddy, J.*) terminating his parental rights as to his three children. Contrary to the father's contentions, the court did not err in finding, by clear and convincing evidence, at least one ground of parental unfitness. 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b) (2022); *In re Child of Olivia F.*, 2019 ME 149, ¶ 6, 217 A.3d 1106; *see, e.g., In re K.M.*, 2015 ME 79, ¶¶ 9-10, 118 A.3d 812. The father failed to take advantage of opportunities presented by the Department to take responsibility for his children, reunify and rehabilitate, and alleviate jeopardy by maintaining contact with the children's mother, not securing safe and suitable housing for the children, failing to secure employment, and failing to maintain visitation with his children or participate in drug testing.

Nor did the court abuse its discretion when it found, by clear and convincing evidence, that termination was in the children's best interests. 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a); *see, e.g., In re Child of Walter C.*, 2019 ME 121, ¶ 7, 213 A.3d 113. The father cannot provide his children with the routine and permanency that they so desperately need.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Seth Berner, Esq., Portland, for appellant Joseph S.

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

Biddeford District Court docket number PC-2020-10  
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