

IN RE CHILDREN OF ALLISON A.

Submitted on Briefs April 19, 2023

Decided April 27, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Allison A. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Waterville, *Gilbert, J.*) terminating her parental rights to her three children. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(i), (ii) (2023). Contrary to her contention, the court did not err in finding that, despite progress that the mother made in services, she remains unable to protect the children from jeopardy or take responsibility for them within a time reasonably calculated to meet their needs because she has been unable to accept responsibility for the harm she caused to one of the children, remains emotionally volatile with other people, and is unable to keep the children safe from the risk of exposure to physical and emotional harm. *See id.* § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i), (ii); *In re M.B.*, 2013 ME 46, ¶ 37, 65 A.3d 1260; *In re Child of Louise G.*, 2020 ME 87, ¶ 8, 236 A.3d 445. The court also did not err or abuse its discretion in determining that, given the risk of harm to the children in the mother's care and their need for permanency, termination of the mother's parental rights is in their best interests. *See* 22 M.R.S. §§ 4002(1-C), 4055(1)(B)(2)(a) (2023); 19-A M.R.S. § 1653(3) (2022);¹ *In re M.B.*, 2013 ME 46, ¶ 37, 65 A.3d 1260; *In re Mackenzie P.*, 2017 ME 130, ¶ 4, 166 A.3d 104. Finally, competent evidence supports the court's finding that the Department of Health and Human Services satisfied its rehabilitation and

¹ This statute was amended, effective after the entry of the termination judgment, though not in any way that affects our analysis. *See* P.L. 2021, ch. 647, § B-46 (effective Jan. 1, 2023) (codified at 19-A M.R.S. § 1653(3)(O) (2023)).

reunification duties, including by providing additional services to the mother on an expedited basis as required by an earlier court order. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4041 (2023); *In re Child of Amelia C.*, 2020 ME 28, ¶ 8, 227 A.3d 156.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Henry W. Griffin, Esq., Auburn, for appellant Allison A.

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

Waterville District Court docket numbers PC-2020-27, PC-2020-28, and PC-2021-26
FOR CLERK REFERENCE ONLY