

IN RE CHILDREN OF WILLIAM S.

Submitted on Briefs May 23, 2023
Decided June 1, 2023

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

William S. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Bangor, *Roberts, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his children. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(i)-(ii) (2023). The father challenges the sufficiency of the evidence, and we conclude that the court did not err in its finding of unfitness, nor did it abuse its discretion in determining that termination of the father’s parental rights is in the children’s best interests.¹ *See In re Child of Olivia F.*, 2019 ME 149, ¶¶ 3, 5-6, 217 A.3d 1106; *In re Child of Kimberly K.*, 2019 ME 145, ¶¶ 7-10, 217 A.3d 63; *In re Children of Anthony M.*, 2018 ME 146, ¶¶ 12-15, 195 A.3d 1229.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

¹ The father also challenges the court’s finding that “there is nothing more that DHHS could have done to assist [the father] in this case.” Contrary to his assertion, this finding is supported by competent evidence in the record. *See In re Child of Haley L.*, 2019 ME 108, ¶¶ 19-20, 211 A.3d 1148; *see also In re Isabelle W.*, 2017 ME 81, ¶ 8 n.3, 159 A.3d 1225 (explaining that the Department’s compliance with its reunification duties “does not constitute a discrete element requiring proof in termination proceedings, nor does the failure of the Department to comply with [its duties] preclude findings of parental unfitness” (quotation marks omitted)).

Nicholas Fowler, Esq., Fowler & Fowler, PLLC, Bangor, for appellant William 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

Bangor District Court docket number CPC-2021-217
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