

IN RE CHILDREN OF JASON C.

Submitted on Briefs September 25, 2024

Decided October 3, 2024

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Jason C. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (South Paris, *Mohlar, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his two children. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(i)-(iv) (2024). We affirm the judgment because first, the court did not err in finding the father parentally unfit on this record due to his inability to take responsibility for his children or protect them from jeopardy within a time reasonably calculated to meet their needs, his abandonment of his children, and his failure to engage in reunification efforts. *See id.*; *In re Children of Anthony L.*, 2019 ME 62, ¶ 6, 207 A.3d 624. Although the father argues that the Department of Health and Human Services' reunification efforts never provided him a fair opportunity to reunify, "the Department's failure to provide such services does not preclude the court from terminating parental rights." *See In re M.B.*, 2013 ME 46, ¶¶ 42-43, 65 A.3d 1260.

Second, the court did not err or abuse its discretion in determining that termination of the father's parental rights was in the best interests of his children, who have spent all but seven days of their lives in foster care and need permanency. *See Anthony*, 2019 ME 62 ¶ 12, 207 A.3d 624.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed

Jeffrey S. Dolley, Esq., Lewiston, 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

South Paris District Court docket number PC-2022-01
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