

JACOB J. GIROUX

v.

JULIE LEAVITT

Submitted on Briefs September 25, 2024
Decided October 3, 2024

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother, Julie Leavitt, appeals from the judgment of the District Court (Waterville, *Dow, J.*) modifying the parties' prior divorce judgment to award primary residence of the parties' two children to the father, Jacob J. Giroux. Contrary to the mother's contentions, the court did not clearly error or abuse its discretion in determining that there was a substantial change in circumstances warranting the change of the children's primary residence to reside with their father principally and that doing so was in the children's best interests. *See Little v. Wallace*, 2016 ME 93, ¶¶ 17-18, 142 A.3d 585; 19-A M.R.S. § 1657 (2024); 19-A M.R.S. § 1653(3) (2024). The court's conclusion that "circumstances relevant to the children's best interest have substantially changed since the date of the Court's last order" is supported by competent evidence in the record. Furthermore, the court soundly exercised its discretion by analyzing the relevant best interest factors focused on the safety and well-being of the children. *See Low v. Low*, 2021 ME 30, ¶ 12, 251 A.3d 735.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Julie Leavitt, appellant pro se

Brad C. Grant, Esq., Ferris, Gurney, Grant & Crook PA, Waterville, for appellee
Jacob J. Giroux

Waterville District Court docket number FM-2019-53
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