

IN RE CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN B.

Submitted on Briefs September 25, 2024

Decided October 3, 2024

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Benjamin B. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Lewiston, *Churchill, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his two children. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b) (2024). We affirm the judgment because (1) the court did not err in finding the father unfit due to his inability to protect the children from jeopardy in a time reasonably calculated to meet their needs and his failure to make a good faith effort to rehabilitate and reunify; (2) 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 the children, who have spent a significant portion of their lives in foster care and one of whom has struggled with the need for permanency; and (3) the father was not deprived of his due process rights when he—not the Department—was responsible for the lack of a reunification plan and the father was aware of his obligations pursuant to the jeopardy order. *See id.*; *In re Child of James R.*, 2018 ME 50, ¶¶ 16-17, 182 A.3d 1252; *In re Children of James B.*, 2020 ME 14, ¶¶ 10-11, 13, 225 A.3d 1285.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Henry W. Griffin, Esq., Auburn, 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

Lewiston District Court docket number PC-2020-93
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