

IN RE CHILDREN OF JOHNATHAN C.

Submitted on Briefs December 20, 2023

Decided January 9, 2024

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Johnathan C. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Lewiston, S. Driscoll, J.) terminating his parental rights to two children pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2)(a), (b)(i)-(ii) (2023).<sup>1</sup> Contrary to the father's contention, the court did not clearly err or abuse its discretion in finding at least one ground of parental unfitness and determining that termination of the father's parental rights is in the children's best interests by clear and convincing evidence. *See In re Child of Katherine C.*, 2019 ME 146, ¶ 2, 217 A.3d 68. Furthermore, on this record, the father does not demonstrate a prima facie showing of ineffective assistance of trial counsel. *See In re Aliyah M.*, 2016 ME 196, ¶ 9; *In re Children of Kacee S.*, 2021 ME 36, ¶¶ 12, 16, 19-20, 253 A.3d 1063.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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<sup>1</sup> The mother consented to the termination of her parental rights to the children, and she is not a party to this appeal.

Brittany Sawyer, Esq., Holmes Legal Group, LLC, Wells, 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-2019-18  
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