

IN RE CHILD OF ALEXANDRIA F.

Submitted on Briefs June 20, 2024
Decided June 27, 2024

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Alexandria F. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Augusta, *Daniel Mitchell, J.*) terminating her parental rights to her child.¹ We discern no error in the court's termination of the mother's parental rights. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2) (2024). There is sufficient evidence in the record to support the court's findings regarding parental unfitness; the record evidence also supports the court's findings regarding the child's best interest; and the court did not abuse its discretion in concluding that termination of the mother's parental rights was in the child's best interest. *See, e.g., In re Child of Scott L.*, 2019 ME 102, ¶¶ 7-11, 210 A.3d 845; *In re Children of Bradford W.*, 2019 ME 15, ¶¶ 3-4, 9, 200 A.3d 1256; *In re Child of James R.*, 2018 ME 50, ¶¶ 6-8, 11-15, 182 A.3d 1252; *In re Zoey H.*, 2017 ME 159, ¶¶ 2-3, 167 A.3d 1260.²

¹ The mother's counsel filed both an appellate brief—including a procedural history, statement of facts, and statement that counsel did not believe there were arguable issues of merit on appeal—and a motion for an extension of time to allow the mother to submit a supplemental brief, which was granted. *See In re M.C.*, 2014 ME 128, ¶¶ 7-8, 104 A.3d 139. The mother elected not to file a supplemental brief.

² The Department's fulfillment of its statutory duties to offer rehabilitation and reunification services is not an element in parental termination proceedings, nor does the Department's failure to meet those duties preclude a finding of parental unfitness. *See, e.g., In re Doris G.*, 2006 ME 142, ¶ 17, 912 A.2d 572; 22 M.R.S. § 4041 (2024). Regardless, competent evidence supports the court's finding that the Department made reasonable efforts to reunify and rehabilitate the family. *See In re Child of*

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Oliver Mac Walton, Esq., Drummond Woodsum, Portland, for appellant Mother

With leave of the Court, the Department of Health and Human Services did not file a brief

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Heather W., 2018 ME 31, ¶ 11 & n.2, 180 A.3d 661. We reject the mother's remaining arguments asserted in her notice of appeal.