

IN RE CHILDREN OF MEGAN R.

Submitted on Briefs September 25, 2024

Decided October 3, 2024

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother appeals from an order of the District Court (Portland, *Woodman, J.*) terminating her parental rights as to her two children pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b)(i)-(iv) (2024). Counsel for the mother stated that she did not believe that there were any arguable issues of merit to address on appeal, and with our leave, the mother filed her own supplemental brief. *See In re M.C.*, 2014 ME 128, ¶ 7, 104 A.3d 139.

The mother argues that the Department of Health and Human Services' reunification efforts were insufficient. Contrary to the mother's contention, the court properly found that the Department's efforts to rehabilitate and reunify the mother with the children were reasonable. Further, "even assuming for the purpose of the unfitness analysis that the Department failed to provide reasonable reunification services, the court's findings of unfitness as to the mother are amply supported in the record," and "in any event the Department's failure to provide such services does not preclude the court from terminating parental rights," so the court did not clearly err or abuse its discretion in terminating the mother's parental rights. *See In re M.B.*, 2013 ME 46, ¶¶ 42-43, 65 A.3d 1260.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Mary-Ann Letourneau, Esq., Holmes Legal Group, LLC, Wells, and the mother,
pro se, for appellant mother

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

Portland District Court docket number PC-2022-4
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