

IN RE CHILD OF JAMES L.

Submitted on Briefs April 23, 2025
Decided May 1, 2025

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

James L. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Portland, *Powers, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his child. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b) (2025). In this case, the court did not err in finding the father parentally unfit where, despite his good faith effort to engage in reunification with his child, he was unable to protect the child from jeopardy in a reasonable time given his continued use of substances and his absence during recurring periods of incarceration. *See id.* § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i); *In re Caleb M.*, 2017 ME 66, ¶ 27, 159 A.3d 345. Nor did the court err or abuse its discretion in determining that termination of the father's parental rights was in the best interest of the child, whose resource family has offered him emotional stability and has expressed an interest in adopting him. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a).

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

Portland District Court docket number PC-2022-54
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