

IN RE CHILD OF BREANNA M.

Submitted on Briefs June 23, 2025
Decided July 1, 2025

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Breanna M. and the father of the child appeal from a judgment of the District Court (Bridgton, *Malia, J.*) terminating both parents' parental rights to the child. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a)-(b) (2025). The court did not err in finding, by clear and convincing evidence, one or more grounds of parental unfitness as to each parent where both parents did not undertake required steps to address their substance misuse and mental health well-being, and where they had neither been in contact with the child in almost a year nor in regular contact with the Department and the guardian ad litem. *See id.* § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i)-(iv); *In re Caleb M.*, 2017 ME 66, ¶ 27, 159 A.3d 345. Further, the court did not err or abuse its discretion in determining that the termination of the mother's and father's parental rights was in the best interest of the child because, since shortly after birth, the child has lived with a pre-adoptive resource parent who has created a safe, vibrant living environment for the child and enabled the child's noticeable health progression. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Brittany Sawyer, Esq., Holmes Legal Group, LLC, Wells, for appellant Mother

Matthew O. Altieri, Esq., Pierce Atwood LLP, Portland, for appellant Father

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

Bridgton District Court docket number PC-2023-7
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