

IN RE DEVON L.

Submitted on Briefs January 11, 2001
Decided January 16, 2001

Panel: WATHEN, C.J., and CLIFFORD, RUDMAN, DANA, SAUFLEY,
ALEXANDER, and CALKINS, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother of Devon L. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Waterville, *Vafiades, J.*) terminating her parental rights. The mother contends that the judgment should be vacated because the Department of Human Services failed to meet its reunification obligations pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. § 4041 (Supp. 2000). A failure by the Department to satisfy its reunification obligations does not, however, constitute an independent ground for vacating a judgment terminating parental rights. *See In re Justin T.*, 640 A.2d 737, 740 (Me. 1994) (stating that a failure to meet reunification obligations is only one factor for the court to consider); *In re Daniel C.*, 480 A.2d 766, 770 (Me. 1984) (stating that the Department need not establish its reunification efforts as a discrete element of proof). The mother does not challenge the court's findings that she is unwilling or unable to protect the child from jeopardy within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs, and that termination is in the child's best interest. 22 M.R.S.A. § 4055(1)(B)(2) (1992).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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