

IN RE DAKOTA W.

Submitted on Briefs September 27, 2007
Decided October 18, 2007

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and CLIFFORD, ALEXANDER, LEVY, SILVER, and
MEAD, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The father of Dakota W. appeals from a judgment entered in the District Court (Portland, *Bradley, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his daughter Dakota pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2) (2006). Contrary to the father's contentions, the court could have found by clear and convincing evidence that the father: (1) was unable to protect the child from jeopardy and these circumstances were unlikely to change within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs; and (2) was unable to take responsibility for the child within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs. *See In re Thomas D.*, 2004 ME 104, ¶ 21, 854 A.2d 195, 201. Also, the court rationally could have found clear

and convincing evidence in the record to support its finding that termination of the father's parental rights was in the best interest of the child. *See id.*; *see also In re Michaela C.*, 2002 ME 159, ¶ 27, 809 A.2d 1245, 1253 (stating the court's best interest determination is entitled to "substantial deference").

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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