

IN RE ISAAC H.

Submitted on Briefs December 11, 2007

Decided December 20, 2007

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother of Isaac H. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Portland, *Goranites, J.*) terminating her parental rights pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4044(1)(B)(2) (2006). Contrary to the mother's contentions, the record supports the court's findings by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the mother is unwilling or unable to protect the child from jeopardy and that those circumstances are unlikely to change within a time reasonably calculated to meet the child's needs, *see In re Thomas H.*, 2005 ME 123, ¶¶ 20-21, 889 A.2d 297, 302-03 (upholding finding of unfitness for failure to protect from jeopardy where mother's continued relationship with inappropriate, dangerous men placed children at risk and mother was dishonest with Department about violent relationship); *see also In re Joshua B.*, 2001 ME 115, ¶ 4, 776 A.2d 1240, 1242 (upholding finding of jeopardy based on mother's continued abusive relationships and placing men before child); (2) the mother is unable to take responsibility for the child within a

time reasonably calculated to meet his needs; and (3) the mother failed to make a good faith effort to rehabilitate and reunify with the child, *see In re Kayla S.*, 2001 ME 79, ¶ 10, 772 A.2d 858, 862 (holding propensity to lie critical to assessing parent's intent to work with the Department). Also, there was competent evidence in the record that supports the court's finding that termination of the mother's parental rights is in the child's best interest. *See In re Thomas H.*, 2005 ME 123, ¶¶ 20, 22, 26, 889 A.2d at 304, 306-07 (favoring permanency and stability over continued uncertainty).

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

---

**Attorneys for the appellants:**

Kevin Heffernan, Esq.  
82 Brook Street  
Brookline, MA 02445

James Hewes, Esq.  
80 Exchange Street  
Portland, ME 04101

**Attorneys for the appellee:**

Matthew Pollack, AAG  
State House Station 6  
Augusta, ME 04333

**Guardian Ad Litem:**

Sharon Craig, Esq.  
P.O. Box 6706  
Portland, ME 04103