

IN RE DENNIS B.

Submitted on Briefs December 12, 2008
Decided December 18, 2008

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The mother of Dennis B. appeals from a judgment entered in the District Court (Calais, *Romei, J.*) terminating her parental rights pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2) (2007). Contrary to the mother's contentions, the court did not abuse its discretion when it denied her motion to continue. *See In re Frederick P.*, 2001 ME 138, ¶ 16, 779 A.2d 957, 961; *State v. Reed*, 479 A.2d 1291, 1295 (Me. 1984).

Additionally, the court rationally could have found clear and convincing evidence in the record to support its determination that termination of the mother's parental rights was in the child's best interest. *See In re Marcus S.*, 2007 ME 24, ¶¶ 6-8, 916 A.2d 225, 227; *In re Michaela C.*, 2002 ME 159, ¶ 27, 809 A.2d 1245, 1253 ("The . . . [c]ourt's judgment on the issue of best interest [of the child] is entitled to substantial deference . . ."). This conclusion stands despite the mother's implicit argument that termination of her parental rights is improper because she seeks only to have the ability to contact the child, not to act as his primary caregiver. *See In re Marcus S.*, 2007 ME 24, ¶¶ 9-11, 916 A.2d at 227-28 (holding that the legislative goals of permanency are met by termination of the mother's rights, notwithstanding the stability that may be achieved by the plan to reunify the children with the father, where contact by the mother is disruptive to the children and is a threat to their stability); *In re Thomas H.*, 2007 ME 71, ¶¶ 6, 8, 922 A.2d 1197, 1199-1200.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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