

IN RE ISAIAH B.

Submitted On Briefs April 29, 2010  
Decided May 6, 2010

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and LEVY, SILVER, MEAD, GORMAN, and  
JABAR, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The father appeals from a judgment entered in the District Court (Lewiston, *Beliveau, J.*) terminating his parental rights to Isaiah B. pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055 (2009) on the Department of Health and Human Services's petition.

Contrary to the father's contentions, competent evidence exists in the record to support the court's findings by clear and convincing evidence that the father was unfit to parent and that termination was in the best interest of the child. *See In re Marcus S.*, 2007 ME 24, ¶ 6, 916 A.2d 225, 227 ("We review findings, including best interest findings, under the clearly erroneous standard by determining whether there is any competent evidence in the record to support them."); *see also In re Kaleb C.*, 2002 ME 65, ¶ 7, 795 A.2d 71, 74 ("We affirm an order terminating parental rights when a review of the entire record demonstrates that the trial court rationally could have found clear and convincing evidence in that record to support the necessary factual findings as to the bases for termination." (quotation marks omitted)); *In re Misty Lee H.*, 529 A.2d 331, 333 (Me. 1987) ("[A] judge's finding on the issue of the best interests of the child is entitled to substantial deference, in that the judge is directly able to evaluate the testimony of the witnesses.").

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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