MAINE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

Reporter of Decisions Decision No. Mem 11-150 Docket No. Pen-11-74

IN RE BRANDEN S.

Submitted on Briefs September 27, 2011 Decided October 4, 2011

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

The father of Branden S. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Bangor, *Jordan, J.*) that terminated his parental rights to the child pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2) (2010). The order terminating his parental rights was entered on January 14, 2011. The father's notice of appeal from the order was filed on February 9, 2011. Because the notice of appeal was filed beyond the twenty-one day time limit indicated in M.R. App. P. 2(b)(3), the appeal was not timely filed and is dismissed. However, even if the appeal were timely filed, we would affirm because there is evidence in the record to support the District Court's finding, by clear and convincing evidence, of at least one ground of parental unfitness and that termination of parental rights is in the best interest of the child. *See In re Charles G.*, 2001 ME 3, ¶ 5, 763 A.2d 1163.

The entry is:

Appeal dismissed.

On the briefs:

Hunter J. Tzovarras, Esq., Bangor, for appellant father

William J. Schneider, Attorney General, Nora Sosnoff, Asst. Atty. Gen., Augusta, for appellee Department of Health and Human Services

Bangor District Court docket number PC-2010-8 For Clerk Reference Only