

IN RE CHILDREN OF JENNA C.

Submitted on Briefs September 21, 2022

Decided September 29, 2022

Panel: STANFILL, C.J., and MEAD, JABAR, HORTON, and CONNORS, JJ.

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Jenna C. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Lewiston, *S. Driscoll, J.*) terminating her parental rights to her three children. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(A)(1)(a), (B)(2) (2022). Contrary to her contention, the court did indicate in its judgment that it was reaching its findings—including the findings regarding the children’s best interests—by clear and convincing evidence. *Cf. In re Amanda H.*, 2007 ME 43, ¶¶ 3-4, 917 A.2d 1120 (vacating a termination judgment in the absence of an explicit finding, by clear and convincing evidence, that termination was in the child’s best interest); *In re Mariah B.*, 2006 ME 141, ¶ 10, 910 A.2d 401 (same). Based on its factual findings, which are supported by competent evidence in the record, the court did not err or abuse its discretion in finding by clear and convincing evidence that the Department had proved at least one ground of unfitness and determining that termination was in the children’s best interests. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2); *In re Child of Olivia F.*, 2019 ME 149, ¶¶ 5-6, 217 A.3d 1106.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

Jason A. MacLean, Esq., Bridgton, for appellant mother

Aaron M. Frey, Attorney General, and Hunter C. Umphrey, Asst. Atty. Gen., Office of the Attorney General, Augusta, for appellee Department of Health and Human Services

Lewiston District Court docket number PC-2020-11
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