

IN RE CHILD OF MICHAEL L.

Submitted on Briefs October 30, 2024

Decided November 7, 2024

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Michael L. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Biddeford, *Duddy, J.*) terminating his parental rights to his child. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b) (2024). We affirm the judgment because (1) the court did not err in finding the father parentally unfit due to his inability to protect his child from jeopardy or take responsibility for his child, his abandonment of his child, and his failure to meaningfully engage in reunification efforts; and (2) the court did not err or abuse its discretion in determining that termination of the father’s parental rights, rather than a permanency guardianship, was in the best interest of the child, who has spent the past four years with her maternal grandparents and needs permanency. *See id.; In re Children of Quincy A.*, 2023 ME 49, ¶¶ 13, 23, 300 A.3d 832.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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

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

Springvale District Court docket number PC-2020-33
For Clerk Reference Only