

IN RE CHILDREN OF ASHLEY P.

Submitted on Briefs December 30, 2024

Decided January 21, 2025

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

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Ashley P. appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Skowhegan, Benson, J.) terminating her parental rights to her two children. *See* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(a), (b) (2024). The court did not abuse its discretion in denying the mother’s motion to continue the termination hearing. Although it could have continued the hearing to be held along with the hearing as to one child’s father, the court did not act outside of the bounds of reasonableness by basing its denial of the motion on information that the mother was absent from her termination hearing due to her unwillingness to report for a jail sentence. *See In re Trever I.*, 2009 ME 59, ¶ 28, 973 A.2d 752; *In re Child. of Destiny H.*, 2024 ME 66, ¶ 24, 322 A.3d 1183. The court also did not err in terminating the mother’s parental rights because competent evidence in the record supported three of the four independently sufficient grounds for parental unfitness, *see* 22 M.R.S. § 4055(1)(B)(2)(b)(i), (ii), (iv), and because it was not an abuse of discretion for the court to conclude that termination of the mother’s parental rights was in the best interests of the children, given that the children’s resource family is meeting their needs. *See In re Child of Tanya C.*, 2018 ME 153, ¶ 13, 198 A.3d 777; *In re Child. of Jason C.*, 2020 ME 86, ¶ 7, 236 A.3d 438.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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Brittany Sawyer, Esq., Holmes Legal Group, LLC, Wells, for appellant Mother

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

Skowhegan District Court docket numbers PC-2022-90 and PC-2022-91  
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