

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of JERRY WALLACE and KATELYN
WALLACE, Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

EDWARD SMITH WENTWORTH
and DEANNA WALLACE,

Respondents-Appellants.

UNPUBLISHED
February 16, 1999

No. 210363
Kent Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 97-000307 NA

Before: Murphy, P.J., and MacKenzie and Talbot, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondents Edward Smith Wentworth and Deanna Wallace appeal as of right from a juvenile court order terminating their parental rights to the minor children. Respondent Wentworth's parental rights were terminated under MCL 712A.19b(3)(a)(ii); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(a)(ii), and respondent Wallace's parental rights were terminated under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(ii) and (g); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(c)(ii) and (g). We affirm.

According deference to the juvenile court's superior ability to judge the credibility of the witnesses who appeared before it, we conclude that the juvenile court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.974(I); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Further, respondents failed to show that termination of their parental rights was clearly not in the children's best

interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(5); *In re Hall-Smith*, 222 Mich App 470,472-473; 564 NW2d 156 (1997). Thus, the juvenile court did not err in terminating respondents' parental rights to the children. *Id.*

Affirmed.

/s/ William B. Murphy

/s/ Barbara B. MacKenzie

/s/ Michael J. Talbot