

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of J'E'ARNELL SHARNOVA-LYNN
SLOCUM, Minor.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

DARNELL SLOCUM, a/k/a DARNELL DAVIS,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

JEANETTE DIXON,

Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED

April 23, 1999

No. 210819

Wayne Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 96-341175

Before: Gage, P.J., and Gribbs and Hoekstra, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent-appellant Darnell Slocum (hereafter "respondent") appeals as of right the family court order terminating his parental rights to the minor child under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j). We affirm.

The family 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, respondent failed to show that termination of his parental rights was clearly not in the child'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). Although respondent contends that the child could have been placed with a relative while he remained in prison, none of respondent's relatives offered to care for the child. The court could properly terminate respondent's parental rights instead of

placing the child with a relative if it was in the child's best interests. *In re Maynard*, ___ Mich App ___; ___ NW2d ___ (Docket No. 208851, issued 1/19/99), slip op at 7; *In re McIntyre*, 192 Mich App 47, 52; 480 NW2d 293 (1991). The court did not err in terminating respondent's parental rights to the child.

Affirmed.

/s/ Hilda R. Gage
/s/ Roman S. Gibbs
/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra