

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

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In the Matter of JOSEPH ROBERT SPRADER and  
ERIC TIMOTHY SPRADER, Minors.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

TIMOTHY ALLEN SPRADER,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

KIMBERLY ANN SPRADER, a/k/a KIMBERLY  
ANN SCOVEL,

Respondent.

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UNPUBLISHED

February 18, 2000

No. 218437

Wayne Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 95-324418

Before: O'Connell, P.J., and Meter and T. G. Hicks\*, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent-appellant appeals as of right from the family court order terminating his parental rights to the minor children pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(c)(i), (g) and (j). We affirm.

The trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying respondent-appellant's request for an adjournment of the continued termination hearing. *In re Jackson*, 199 Mich App 22, 28; 501 NW2d 182 (1993). A parent does not have an absolute right to be physically present at the termination hearing, but may appear through legal counsel. *In re Vasquez*, 199 Mich App 44, 48; 501 NW2d 231 (1993). Also, the trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were

\* Circuit judge, sitting on the Court of Appeals by assignment.

established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.974(I); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Further, respondent-appellant failed to show that termination of his 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 trial court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights to the children. *Id.* at 472.

Affirmed.

/s/ Peter D. O'Connell

/s/ Patrick M. Meter

/s/ Timothy G. Hicks