

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**COURT OF APPEALS**

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In the Matter of JOHN WHITSET THOMAS, JR.,  
CHARLES STEVEN THOMAS and LAUREN  
ROSE BYNUM, Minors.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

SHAWN QUINETTE SAWYER a/k/a SHAWN  
QUINATTE SAWYER,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

JOHN THOMAS and LORENZO BYNUM,

Respondents.

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UNPUBLISHED  
October 10, 2000

No. 223136  
Wayne Circuit Court  
Family Division  
LC No. 97-351464

Before: Cavanagh, P.J., and Saad and Meter, JJ.

**MEMORANDUM.**

Respondent-appellant appeals by leave granted the family court order terminating her parental rights to the minor children under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i), (g), and (j); MSA 27.3178 (598.19b)(3)(c)(i), (g), and (j). We affirm.

When the minor child CST was born, he tested positive for “opiates, cocaine, cannabinoids and benzodiazepines.” The hospital alerted FIA, and the minor children CST and JWT were made temporary wards of the court. At the hearing, respondent admitted to using cocaine and marijuana while pregnant, and to using her ADC funds to support her drug habit. Respondent entered into a parent/agency agreement and agreed to complete drug treatment and to remain drug free. Thereafter, LRB was born and, four days after her birth, respondent abandoned the child. Although respondent

attempted to kick her drug habit, she relapsed after each of her six treatment programs. She also failed to comply with other terms of the parent/agency agreement including visitation, employment, housing, contact with her caseworker, and attendance at hearings. The trial court found clear and convincing evidence supporting termination of respondent's parental rights.

We review for clear error both the court's decision that a ground for termination has been proven by clear and convincing evidence and, where appropriate, the court's decision regarding the child's best interest. *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). We find that the family court did not clearly err in finding that statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.974(I); *In re Sours*, 459 Mich 624; 593 NW2d 520 (1999); *In re Conley*, 216 Mich App 41, 43-44; 549 NW2d 353 (1996). Moreover, the family court did not clearly err in determining that termination of respondent-appellant's parental rights was in the children's best interest. MCL 712A.19b(5); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(5); *In re Trejo, supra*.

Affirmed.

/s/ Mark J. Cavanagh  
/s/ Henry William Saad  
/s/ Patrick M. Meter