

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

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In the Matter of J.E.L., Minor.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

RONALD LONG,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

MARRAY DAVIS,

Respondent.

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UNPUBLISHED

September 24, 2002

No. 239427

Allegan Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 00-026257-NA

Before: Whitbeck, C.J., and Sawyer and Kelly, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent-appellant appeals as of right from the trial court order terminating his parental rights to the minor child under MCL 712A.19b(3)(g). We affirm.

In making a termination decision, the trial court must engage in a two-step analysis. First, it must determine if a statutory ground for termination has been established by clear and convincing evidence. *In re Sours Minors*, 459 Mich 624, 632; 593 NW2d 520 (1999). Second, if a statutory ground has been established, the trial court must terminate parental rights unless there exists clear evidence on the whole record that it is not in the child's best interests to terminate parental rights. *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 354; 603 NW2d 787 (2000).

The Court has carefully reviewed the record on appeal, the opinion of the trial court, and the parties' briefs. We are not persuaded that the trial court erred in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were met and that it was in the best interests of the child to terminate the

parental rights. Accordingly, we find no abuse of discretion by the trial court in terminating respondent's parental rights.

Affirmed.

/s/ William C. Whitbeck

/s/ David H. Sawyer

/s/ Kirsten Frank Kelly