

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

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In the Matter of H.L.L., Minor.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

LEONARD ADRIAN LIGGINS,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

VANESSA FAYE BLACK,

Respondent.

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UNPUBLISHED  
November 1, 2002

No. 235950  
Wayne Circuit Court  
Family Division  
LC No. 85-249764

Before: Hoekstra, P.J., and Wilder and Zahra, 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) and (j). We affirm. This appeal is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E).

The trial 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). Respondent never began psychiatric treatment. Respondent also admitted that he did not have sufficient income to provide for his child. Respondent's failure to comply with the minimal requirements of the parent-agency agreement justifies termination of his parental rights based on continuing neglect. The trial court properly terminated respondent's parental rights under MCL 712A.19(b)(3)(g) and (j).

Further, the evidence did not show that termination of respondent's parental rights was contrary to the child's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). The minor child has been in foster care since shortly after his birth in April 1997. Respondent has failed to overcome his mental health problems and has not demonstrated progress in providing proper care and custody for the child. The child should not

wait any longer for a permanent and stable home. Thus, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights to the child.

Affirmed.

/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra

/s/ Kurtis T. Wilder

/s/ Brian K. Zahra