

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of BLAINE CHRISTIAN
THOMPSON, Minor.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

BLAIR DEANE THOMPSON,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

JULIE CHRISTINE THOMPSON,

Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED

January 8, 2004

No. 249457

Kalamazoo Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 99-000268-NA

Before: Donofrio, P.J., and Griffin and Jansen, 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)(a)(ii), (g) and (l). We affirm.

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 3.977(J); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Respondent-appellant neither contests that his rights to another child were terminated nor does he contest that he deserted this child for over ninety-one days. Further, he readily admits in his brief on appeal that he abandoned this child because of his incarceration and/or drug use and that he had significant substance abuse issues that prevented him from caring for this child. In essence, respondent-appellant concedes that grounds for termination under MCL 712A.19b(3)(a)(ii) and (l) were established.

However, respondent-appellant contends the trial court erred when it found that he would not be able to care for his child within a reasonable time, i.e., that there was insufficient evidence to support termination pursuant to MCL 719A.19b(3)(g). We need not consider this because proof of only one statutory ground is necessary to terminate parental rights. *In re McIntyre*, 192

Mich App 47, 50; 480 NW2d 293 (1991). In any event, we reject respondent-appellant's claim that the court erred when it found that there was no reasonable expectation that respondent-appellant would be able to provide proper care and custody within a reasonable time. Respondent-appellant has a long-term history of substance abuse that, despite being offered services and participating in several rehabilitation programs, he has not been able to overcome. A psychological evaluation concluded that even if respondent-appellant were to participate in the services offered, the prognosis was poor. Moreover, at the time of termination respondent-appellant was serving a sentence of two to fourteen years' imprisonment. Even if we were to accept respondent-appellant's optimistic testimony that he was going to participate in a boot camp that would ensure his release within six months, he still would not be in a position to parent his child within a reasonable time considering the child's age. Thus, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights to his son.

Affirmed.

/s/ Pat M. Donofrio
/s/ Richard Allen Griffin
/s/ Kathleen Jansen