

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

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In the Matter of DASHON TAYLOR, Minor.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

TONIA TAYLOR,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

DWAYNE BOWIE,

Respondent.

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UNPUBLISHED

August 19, 2004

No. 254223

Calhoun Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 02-002898-NA

Before: Hoekstra, P.J., and Cooper and Kelly, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

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

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 3.977(J); *In re Sours Minors*, 459 Mich 624, 633; 593 NW2d 520 (1999); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Dashon was removed from respondent-appellant when he was approximately fourteen months old. Respondent-appellant admitted to allegations that she was homeless, emotionally unstable, and used marijuana. Although the child had been in foster care for more than sixteen months at the time of the termination hearing, respondent-appellant had only recently acquired suitable housing and did not consistently comply with counseling. Respondent-appellant admitted at the termination hearing that she was not regularly taking her medication that had been prescribed to treat her depression. Moreover, respondent-appellant had not completed substance abuse treatment, did not consistently comply with drug screens, and had tested positive for marijuana throughout most of the proceedings. In addition, respondent-appellant maintained that using marijuana did not affect her parenting ability.

Further, the evidence failed to show that termination of respondent-appellant's parental rights was clearly not in the best interests of the child. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Dashon had spent more than half of his young life in foster care waiting for respondent-appellant to become an appropriate parent. Therefore, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights.

Affirmed.

/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra  
/s/ Jessica R. Cooper  
/s/ Kirsten Frank Kelly