

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

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In the Matter of JEROME WATKINS and  
CHANTAL DENE REED, Minors.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

GWENDOLYN WATKINS, a/k/a GWENDOLYN  
REED,

Respondent-Appellant.

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UNPUBLISHED

October 5, 2004

No. 253973

Oakland Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 03-678777-NA

Before: Borrello, P.J., and Murray and Fort Hood, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals as of right the trial court order terminating her parental rights to the minor children based on MCL 712A.19b(3)(g), (j), 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). Further, the evidence failed to establish that termination of respondent's parental rights was clearly not in the children's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000).

The trial court properly conducted the proceedings in this case according to the applicable statutes and court rules, thereby adequately safeguarding respondent's rights. See *In re Brock*, 442 Mich 101, 111; 499 NW2d 752 (1993). Respondent pleaded no contest to the allegations contained in the petition for the termination of her parental rights and the evidence of her long-term and continued drug use, considered with evidence of the previous termination of her parental rights to another child because of her drug use, provided clear and convincing evidence that the statutory grounds for termination existed. Moreover, respondent's failure to demonstrate any effort to address her substance abuse problem or to fulfill her duties as a mother to her special needs children supported the trial court's finding that termination of respondent's parental rights was not contrary to the children's best interests.

Affirmed.

/s/ Stephen L. Borrello

/s/ Christopher M. Murray

/s/ Karen M. Fort Hood