

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of PATRICK CRONK, ANDRE
CRONK, and AALYHEA CRONK, Minors.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

PATRICK CRONK,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

STACEY CRONK,

Respondent.

In the Matter of SAMANTHA SIRK, PATRICK
CRONK, ANDRE CRONK, and AALYHEA
CRONK, Minors.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

STACEY CRONK,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

PATRICK CRONK and TODD SIRK,

UNPUBLISHED
December 9, 2008

No. 285321
Berrien Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 2006-000087-NA

No. 285323
Berrien Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 2006-000087-NA

Respondents.

Before: Hoekstra, P.J., and Bandstra and Donofrio, JJ.

PER CURIAM.

In these consolidated appeals, respondents Patrick Cronk and Stacey Cronk appeal as of right from the trial court's order terminating their parental rights to the minor children pursuant to MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i) (conditions that led to the adjudication continue to exist), (g) (failure to provide proper care and custody), and (j) (reasonable likelihood children will be harmed if returned to the parents' home). Because the trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence with respect to respondents Patrick Cronk and Stacey Cronk, we affirm.

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence with respect to each respondent. MCR 3.977(J); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000); *In re BZ*, 264 Mich App 286, 296; 690 NW2d 505 (2004). Respondents' children were made temporary court wards after respondents were evicted from their home. Respondents left their children with relatives and respondents relied on friends for temporary lodging. Despite participating in services for more than 18 months, neither respondent was able to rectify the conditions that led to adjudication. They failed to establish stable employment, and both had quit jobs without arranging for other employment. Additionally, at the time of the termination hearing, respondents were three months behind on their rent. Respondents also failed to appreciate the effect of their chaotic lifestyle and instability on the children. Two of the children had not received proper dental care and had eight cavities each, and Stacey Cronk's daughter was two years behind in school and unable to read. Respondents also repeatedly exposed the children to inappropriate persons without agency approval, and tended to blame relative caregivers for their problems.

Although respondents emphasize their participation in services, as this Court observed in *In re Gazella*, 264 Mich App 668, 676; 692 NW2d 708 (2005), "it is not enough to merely go through the motions physically; a parent must benefit from the services offered so that he or she can improve parenting skills to the point where the children would no longer be at risk in the parent's custody." Because the circumstances had not materially changed after approximately 18 months of services, the trial court did not clearly err in finding that termination was warranted under §§ 19b(3)(c)(i), (g), and (j).

Affirmed.

/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra
/s/ Richard A. Bandstra
/s/ Pat M. Donofrio