

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of HOUSTON ADKINS and
SANDRA ADKINS, Minors.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

BRYAN KEITH ADKINS,

Respondent-Appellant.

UNPUBLISHED

April 23, 2009

No. 288592

Ottawa Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 08-060904-NA

Before: Borrello, P.J., and Murphy and M. J. Kelly, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent appeals as of right the trial court's order terminating his parental rights to the minor children under MCL 712A.19b(3)(b)(i). Because there were no errors warranting relief, we affirm.

Respondent does not dispute that § 19b(3)(b)(i) was established by clear and convincing legally admissible evidence. MCR 3.977(E)(3). He only challenges the trial court's best interests decision. After reviewing the record, we conclude that the trial court did not clearly err in finding that termination of respondent's parental rights was in the children's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5). Although the children loved respondent and he was their primary source of financial support, the evidence showed that respondent was a pedophile who preyed upon children of both sexes that he was raising as his own. A sexual abuse counselor testified that it was not unusual for a child to love his or her abuser, especially where the child has been "groomed" or conditioned to accept the abuse. The evidence also showed that the children's mother was unlikely to protect the children from respondent. Therefore, the trial court did not clearly err in terminating respondent's parental rights to the children. *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000).

Affirmed.

/s/ Stephen L. Borrello

/s/ William B. Murphy

/s/ Michael J. Kelly