

Cite as 2019 Ark. App. 4  
**ARKANSAS COURT OF APPEALS**

DIVISION I  
No. CV-18-539

BRIANNA JONES

APPELLANT

V.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICES AND MINOR CHILDREN  
APPELLEES

Opinion Delivered: January 16, 2019

APPEAL FROM THE HEMPSTEAD  
COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
[NO. 29JV-16-179]

HONORABLE RANDY WRIGHT,  
JUDGE

APPEAL DISMISSED

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**RAYMOND R. ABRAMSON, Judge**

Appellant Brianna Jones seeks to appeal an order by the Hempstead County Circuit Court terminating her parental rights to her daughters, S.B. and K.J. We dismiss the appeal for want of jurisdiction.

Jones filed her notice of appeal on April 13, 2018. It was signed by her lawyer, Steve Harrelson. On July 19, 2018, William Blake Montgomery entered an appearance on behalf of Jones and filed a motion for belated appeal on July 25, 2018. Our supreme court granted that motion and a motion to stay briefing on September 6, 2018. The appeal was transferred to our court, and briefing commenced.

The requirements of a notice of appeal in dependency-neglect proceedings differ from normal procedure in that Arkansas Supreme Court Rule 6-9(b)(1)(B) requires

that the notice of appeal and designation of record be signed not only by Jones's counsel, but also by the appellant herself if, as here, she is an adult.<sup>1</sup> A notice of appeal in such cases that lacks the signature of the appellant is deficient. See *McPherson v. Ark. Dep't of Human Servs.*, 2013 Ark. App. 238. While not every defect in a notice of appeal will deprive the appellate court of jurisdiction, the Arkansas Supreme Court has required strict compliance with the appellant-signature requirements of Rule 6-9(b)(1)(B). *Id.*

Our supreme court granted Jones's motion for belated appeal, but there has been no cure to the violation of the rule requiring her signature on the notice of appeal. Therefore, we must dismiss this appeal for lack of jurisdiction.

Appeal dismissed.

GLOVER and BROWN, JJ., agree.

*Montgomery & Burke*, by: *Wm. Blake Montgomery* and *Jim A. Burke*, for appellant.

*Andrew Firth*, Office of Chief Counsel, for appellee.

*Chrestman Group, PLLC*, by: *Keith L. Chrestman*, attorney ad litem for minor children.

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<sup>1</sup>Jones's date of birth is August 6, 1992.