

**ARKANSAS COURT OF APPEALS**

DIVISION I  
No. CA12-992

KAYLA McPHERSON

APPELLANT

V.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES

APPELLEE

Opinion Delivered April 17, 2013

APPEAL FROM THE LONOKE  
COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
[NO. JV-2011-68]

HONORABLE BARBARA ELMORE,  
JUDGE

APPEAL DISMISSED

**JOHN MAUZY PITTMAN, Judge**

Appellant seeks to appeal an order terminating her parental rights to her three minor children. We dismiss the appeal for want of jurisdiction.

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 appellant's counsel but also by the appellant herself if, as here, she is an adult. A notice of appeal in such cases that lacks the signature of the appellant is deficient. *Martin v. Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services*, 369 Ark. 477, 255 S.W.3d 830 (2007). Not every defect in a notice of appeal will deprive the appellate court of jurisdiction, *see Evins v. Carvin*, 2012 Ark. App. 622, but the Arkansas Supreme Court has required strict compliance with the appellant-signature requirement of Rule 6-9(b)(1)(B). *See, e.g., S.F. v. Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services*, 370 Ark. 475, 261 S.W.3d 462 (2007).

Although we must dismiss this appeal for lack of jurisdiction, we note that the Arkansas Supreme Court may grant a motion for belated appeal under certain circumstances. *See Garcia v. Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services*, 374 Ark. 144, 286 S.W.3d 674 (2008); *S.F. v. Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services*, *supra*; Ark. R. App. P.–Crim. 2(e).

Appeal dismissed.

GLADWIN, C.J., and VAUGHT, J., agree.

*Charles D. Hancock*, for appellant.

*Tabitha Baertels McNulty*, County Legal Operations, for appellee.

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