IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

LAWRENCE P. WHALEN,

No. 441, 2002 Respondent Below-

Appellant,

Court Below—Family Court V.

§ of the State of Delaware,

§ in and for Sussex County MARTHA C. VAN BRUNT,

§ Petition Nos.00-21066;01-19035

File Nos.01-06-01TS Petitioner Below-Appellee. CS96-03152

> Submitted: December 26, 2002 Decided: February 4, 2003

Before VEASEY, Chief Justice, WALSH and STEELE, Justices

<u>ORDER</u>

This 4th day of February 2003, upon consideration of the briefs of the parties and the record below, it appears to the Court that the judgment of the Family Court should be affirmed on the basis of and for the reasons set forth in its orders dated July 9, 2002 and November 26, 2001. There was no abuse of discretion or error of law in the Family Court's July 9, 2002 order terminating the appellant's parental rights and denying the appellant's petition for visitation. There was, furthermore, no abuse of discretion or error of law in the

¹DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 13, §§ 1103(a) (4) a. and (a) (5) b.

Family Court's November 26, 2001 order denying appellant's motion to appoint counsel.²

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the judgment of the Family Court is AFFIRMED.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ E. Norman Veasey Chief Justice

²FAM. CT. CIV. PROC. R. 204.