

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
FIFTH DISTRICT

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO  
FILE MOTION FOR REHEARING AND  
DISPOSITION THEREOF IF FILED

H.C., MOTHER OF C.C. AND R.C.,  
CHILDREN,

Appellant,

v.

Case No. 5D14-1225

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES, ET AL.,

Appellee.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

Opinion filed August 4, 2014

Final Appeal from the Circuit  
Court for Sumter County,  
Michelle T. Morley, Judge.

Mark A. Skipper, Office of Criminal  
Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel,  
Orlando and Jeffrey Deen, Regional  
Counsel Office of Criminal Conflict and  
Civil Regional Counsel, Casselberry, for  
Appellant.

Christopher S. Mulligan, Brooksville, for  
Appellee C.C.

Wendie Michelle Cooper, Guardian ad  
Litem Program, Sanford.

Deborah Anne Schroth, of Dept. of  
Children & Families, Jacksonville, for  
Appellee.

PALMER, J.

H.C. (mother) appeals the final order entered by the trial court denying her motion to re-open her children's dependency case in order to modify the trial court's previously entered order placing children in permanent guardianship with their paternal grandparents.<sup>1</sup> We affirm the trial court's order because, contrary to the mother's claim otherwise, it is the parent's burden of proving that the safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health of the child(ren) would not be endangered by reunification; the Department of Children and Families has no burden of proof in reunification proceedings.

AFFIRMED.

TORPY, C.J. and LAMBERT, J., concur.

---

<sup>1</sup> Jurisdiction is proper pursuant to rule 9.030(b)(1) of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. See also J.M. v. Dep't of Children & Families, 969 So. 2d 491, 492 (Fla. 5th DCA 2007).