

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of JENNIFER LORENZ, LISA
KAY WATTS, and CARL ALLEN WATTS, JR., Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

LISA WATTS,

Respondent-Appellant.

UNPUBLISHED

December 11, 1998

No. 209045

Midland Juvenile Court

LC No. 96-009441 NA

Before: Markman, P.J., and Bandstra and J.F. Kowalski*, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent-appellant appeals as of right a juvenile court order terminating her parental rights to the minor children under MCL 712A.19b(3)(g) and (j); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(g) and (j). We affirm.

The juvenile court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 5.974(I); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). The evidence revealed that the children had lived in an environment in which they witnessed domestic violence, were extremely neglected because of respondent-appellant's drug addiction and incarcerations, and were emotionally and physically abused. Respondent-appellant has an extensive criminal and substance abuse record and has failed to overcome her drug addiction even though she was provided with numerous services. The record shows that respondent-appellant continued to make improper parenting decisions including, taking the children with her to crack houses to buy drugs, disappearing overnight causing eight-year-old Jennifer to stay at a neighbor's house and to worry about her mother and siblings, leaving the younger children in Jennifer's care, and continuing to violate the law. Respondent-appellant was also shot in the arm on one occasion while attempting to

* Circuit judge, sitting on the Court of Appeals by assignment.

purchase drugs. Further, respondent-appellant failed to show that termination of her parental rights was clearly not in the

children's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(5); *In re Hall-Smith*, 222 Mich App 470, 472-473; 564 NW2d 156 (1997). Thus, the juvenile court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights.

We affirm.

/s/ Stephen J. Markman

/s/ Richard A. Bandstra

/s/ John F. Kowalski