

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of N.D.W., Minor.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

PREVIN HANDLEY,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

SCHNEKA CHANTE BARNES,

Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED

December 20, 2002

No. 238821

Wayne Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 00-386660

Before: Owens, P.J., and Murphy and Cavanagh, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent-appellant appeals as of right from the trial court order terminating his parental rights to the minor child under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i) and (g). We affirm. This appeal is being heard without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E)(1)(b).

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. See MCR 5.974(I); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). The primary condition leading to adjudication was the fact that respondent-appellant was a stranger to the minor child, and there was no bond between them. Over the course of the proceedings, respondent-appellant did not establish a bond with the minor child or demonstrate a permanent commitment to fathering the minor child. Respondent-appellant had never provided the minor child with care or custody and was seriously behind in his child support payments for the child. His lack of commitment to parenting demonstrated that he would not be able to effectively provide proper care or custody over the long term.

Further, the evidence did not show that termination of respondent-appellant's parental rights was clearly not in the child's best interests. See MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich

341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). There was no bond between parent and child. Thus, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights to the child.

Affirmed.

/s/ Donald S. Owens
/s/ William B. Murphy
/s/ Mark J. Cavanagh