

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

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In the Matter of BRADLEY BRUCE WARD, JR.,  
Minor.

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FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

BRADLEY BRUCE WARD, SR.,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

DARNESHA MARIE SMITH,

Respondent.

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UNPUBLISHED  
November 25, 2003

No. 246170  
Wayne Circuit Court  
Family Division  
LC No. 98-369993

Before: Cooper, P.J., and Markey and Meter, 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), (g), and (j). We affirm. This case is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E).

The trial court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. MCR 3.977(J); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Respondent-appellant had been in prison for most of Bradley, Jr.'s life. Respondent-appellant was twice convicted of criminal sexual conduct against vulnerable victims, including his daughter. At the time of the permanent custody hearing, respondent-appellant was serving a five to twenty-five year prison term for assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder. This evidence of respondent-appellant's abusive and violent conduct supported the trial court's decision.

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

*Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 364-365; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Thus, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights to the child.

Affirmed.

/s/ Jessica R. Cooper

/s/ Jane E. Markey

/s/ Patrick M. Meter