

COURT OF APPEALS  
EIGHTH DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
EL PASO, TEXAS

§  
No. 08-08-00049-CV  
§  
Appeal from the  
IN THE INTEREST OF I.L., A CHILD. §  
65th Judicial District Court  
§  
of El Paso County, Texas  
§  
(TC# 2003CM5921)  
§

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

Rigoberto Lerma attempts to appeal from the trial court's ruling, granting a petition to terminate his parental rights. Finding that the trial court has not entered a final order in the case, we dismiss the appeal for want of jurisdiction.

The trial court orally granted a petition terminating Mr. Lerma's parental rights regarding I.L. at the close of a termination hearing on January 17, 2008. Mr. Lerma filed a notice of appeal on January 24, 2008. There is no record that a final appealable order has been entered by the trial court.

Appellate courts generally have jurisdiction over final judgments, and such interlocutory orders as the Legislature deems appealable. TEX.CIV.PRAC.&REM.CODE ANN. § 51.012 (Vernon 1997) and § 51.014 (Vernon Supp. 2007); *Ruiz v. Ruiz*, 946 S.W.2d 123, 124 (Tex.App.--El Paso 1997, no pet.). Given the absence of a final appealable order in this case, we dismiss the appeal for want of jurisdiction.

May 15, 2008

DAVID WELLINGTON CHEW, Chief Justice

Before Chew, C.J., McClure, and Carr, JJ.