

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of BRITTANY LOFTON, Minor.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

LATANYA LOFTON,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR,

Respondent.

In the Matter of DAVON LOFTON, Minor.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

V

LATANYA LOFTON,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR,

Respondent.

Before: Saad, P.J., and Jansen and Markey, JJ.

UNPUBLISHED
October 4, 2005

No. 260564
Kent Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 03-054186-NA

No. 260565
Kent Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 03-054187-NA

MEMORANDUM.

In these consolidated cases, respondent Latanya Lofton appeals by right from the order terminating her parental rights to the minor children. MCL 712A.19b(3)(a)(ii), (c)(i), (g), and (j). This appeal is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E). We affirm.

Respondent argues that termination of her parental rights was against the children's best interests because of the bond that existed between her and her children. We review for clear error the trial court's best interests determination. *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Respondent's selective choice of various testimony ignores the overwhelming evidence that any bond that may have existed between respondent and the minor children at the start of this case had deteriorated to the point that, by the time of the termination hearing, the younger child did not appear very bothered by respondent's missed visitations and the older child expressed a clear preference for adoption. Similarly, while it appears true that visitations went well at the very beginning of the case, problems surfaced almost immediately afterward when visitations were suspended before the first review hearing because of respondent's failure to attend. In addition, concerns were expressed at various hearings about the appropriateness of respondent's behavior during the few visitations that she attended. By the time of the termination hearing, respondent had not visited with the children for approximately eight months, initially because her visitations were suspended due to failure to appear and then, subsequently, because she failed to participate in services. Respondent had also failed to manage her substance abuse problem, secure employment, locate suitable housing, start parenting classes, or participate in counseling. When the trial court investigated whether there was any financial benefit for the older child to remain in a permanent foster care arrangement, it found none. Based on this evidentiary record, the trial court did not clearly err in finding that termination of respondent's parental rights was not contrary to the children's best interests.

We affirm.

/s/ Henry William Saad
/s/ Kathleen Jansen
/s/ Jane E. Markey