

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of DONNELL JACKSON, ROBIN
RENEE WOMACK and DARRYLL THOMAS,
Minors.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

DONNELL THOMAS,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

REESHA ANJANETTA JACKSON and HENRY
WOMACK,

Respondents.

UNPUBLISHED

April 23, 1999

No. 212010

Wayne Circuit Court

Family Division

LC No. 96-338474

Before: Gage, P.J., and Gribbs and Hoekstra, JJ.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent-appellant appeals as of right from a family court order terminating his parental rights to his two sons, Donnell Jackson and Darryll Thomas, under MCL 712A.19b(3)(c)(i) and (g); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(3)(c)(i) and (g). We affirm.

The family court did not clearly err in finding that the statutory grounds for termination were established by clear and convincing evidence. *In re Hall-Smith*, 222 Mich App 470, 472-473; 564 NW2d 156 (1997); *In re Vasquez*, 199 Mich App 44, 51-52; 501 NW2d 231 (1993). Further, respondent-appellant failed to show that termination of his parental rights was clearly not in the children's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); MSA 27.3178(598.19b)(5); *In re McIntyre*, 192 Mich

App 47, 52; 480 NW2d 293 (1991). Although respondent offered three relatives as alternative custodians, the court may properly terminate parental rights instead of placing a child with a relative if it is in the best interests of the child. *In re Maynard*, ___ Mich App ___; ___ NW2d ___ (Docket No. 208851, issued 1/19/99), slip op at 7. Here, respondent-appellant failed to demonstrate that the relatives proposed as custodians were in fact able to care for the children. Accordingly, the family court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights.

Affirmed.

/s/ Hilda R. Gage

/s/ Roman s. Gibbs

/s/ Joel P. Hoekstra