

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COURT OF APPEALS

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In the Matter of PORCHA HOLMES,  
CHAMPAGNE COOK, JOSEPH COOK, and  
JAQUAN COOK, Minors.

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, f/k/a  
FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY,

UNPUBLISHED  
January 31, 2006

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

TANITHIA MARIE HOLMES COOK,

Respondent-Appellant.

No. 265126  
Wayne Circuit Court  
Family Division  
LC No. 91-292508-NA

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Before: Meter, P.J., Whitbeck, C.J., and Schuette, J.

MEMORANDUM.

Respondent Tanithia Cook appeals as of right from the trial court's order terminating her parental rights to the minor children.<sup>1</sup> We affirm. We decide this appeal without oral argument.<sup>2</sup>

We conclude that the trial court did not clearly err in its best interest analysis.<sup>3</sup> Tanithia Cook has a substantial history of involvement with Protective Services because of her failure to protect her children and provide them with adequate housing. From April 1991 to February 1996, her three daughters languished in foster care after medical personnel reported signs of physical abuse. In February 2002, one child reported physical and sexual abuse by her stepfather, Joseph Cook, but the petition was ultimately dismissed. In August 2003, the children were removed from Tanithia Cook's care because she lacked adequate housing, the girls reported sexual abuse by Joseph Cook, and one son reported witnessing it. The children were returned to Tanithia Cook's care in April 2004, and appeared to have stable housing, but in June 2004, the trial court granted Tanithia Cook permission to leave the state because Joseph Cook was

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<sup>1</sup> MCL 712A.19b(3)(g) and (j).

<sup>2</sup> MCR 7.214(E).

<sup>3</sup> MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000); *In re Sours*, 459 Mich 624, 633; 593 NW2d 520 (1999).

threatening her. At that point, Tanithia Cook acknowledged that Joseph Cook had “jumped on” her in the past. Tanithia Cook and the children moved to Georgia for approximately two weeks before Tanithia Cook returned (leaving the children behind in Georgia). When the children returned, Tanithia Cook again failed to provide adequate housing. At the time of the Clinic for Child Study’s evaluation in May 2005, the children each displayed serious emotional problems. The evaluator concluded that, given Tanithia Cook’s history of being unable to care for her children, her prognosis was poor. As of July 2005, Tanithia Cook still did not have adequate housing, and the trial court disbelieved her testimony concerning her efforts.

In light of Tanithia Cook’s long history of failing to protect the children and failure to provide a stable and safe home, the evidence did not show that termination of Tanithia Cook’s parental rights was clearly not in the children’s best interests. The trial court did not err in terminating Tanithia Cook’s parental rights.

Affirmed.

/s/ Patrick M. Meter  
/s/ William C. Whitbeck  
/s/ Bill Schuette