

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

In the Matter of TREASURE MEDLOCK and
BRENDON LOVE MEDLOCK, Minor.

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

UNPUBLISHED
June 22, 2006

Petitioner-Appellee,

v

LATRINA SHAWNTAE MEDLOCK,

Respondent-Appellant,

and

JAMES PARKER,

Respondent.

No. 267197
Wayne Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 05-445925-NA

Before: Davis, P.J., and Sawyer and Schuette, JJ.

PER CURIAM.

Respondent-appellant appeals as of right from the trial court order terminating her parental rights to the children. We affirm. This appeal is being decided without oral argument pursuant to MCR 7.214(E).

Respondent-appellant's parental rights to six children were terminated by the Virginia courts. Respondent-appellant admitted that the terminations resulted from her long history of drug abuse. In 2004, she came to Michigan with Treasure. She returned to Virginia and gave birth to an eighth child, Jaheed, in August 2004. After her parental rights to Jaheed were terminated, she fled to Michigan with Treasure.

In June 2005, Virginia authorities, upon being advised that respondent-appellant was in Michigan, asked Wayne County protective services for a courtesy review of respondent-appellant. Respondent-appellant was notified of a Virginia court order prohibiting her from leaving the state and requiring her to submit to a psychiatric evaluation and a drug and alcohol services assessment. Respondent-appellant claimed she was unaware of the court order until

informed by Michigan authorities in June 2005. She told protective services that she was unemployed, living with friends, using drugs, and pregnant. Treasure was living with respondent-appellant's sister, Hope Watkins. Respondent-appellant gave birth to Brendon on August 23, 2005. Both respondent-appellant and the child tested positive for cocaine at delivery. Petitioner subsequently filed a permanent custody petition seeking termination of respondent-appellant's parental rights to both Treasure and Brendon. The children were placed with Ms. Watkins, who expressed an interest in adopting the children.

After Brendon's birth, respondent-appellant, at the protective services worker's urging, enrolled in an inpatient drug treatment program. As of the termination trial, she had been in the program for seventy days, the longest she had been drug-free in her seventeen-year drug use history. Although respondent-appellant did not have housing or employment, she stated that she would be able to get both after completion of the program. She was also taking parenting classes while in the program. Respondent-appellant admitted that she had been in several drug treatment facilities in Virginia, and that, in 1997, she had been kicked out of a two-year program after forty-five days for noncompliance. She claimed, however, to have turned a new leaf in order to keep Treasure and Brendon. Respondent-appellant also admitted to mental health problems but did not indicate having, or intending to get, treatment for those problems. After considering the evidence at trial, the court found that the evidence supported termination of respondent-appellant's parental rights under §§ 19(b)(3)(g), (i), (j), and (l).

The foregoing evidence shows that the trial court did not clearly err in finding termination was appropriate under the cited statutory grounds. MCR 3.977(G)(3); *In re Miller*, 433 Mich 331, 337; 445 NW2d 161 (1989). Further, the evidence did not show that termination of respondent-appellant's parental rights was clearly not in the children's best interests. MCL 712A.19b(5); *In re Trejo Minors*, 462 Mich 341, 356-357; 612 NW2d 407 (2000). Thus, the trial court did not err in terminating respondent-appellant's parental rights to the children.

Affirmed.

/s/ Alton T. Davis
/s/ David H. Sawyer
/s/ Bill Schuette