

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COURT OF APPEALS

UNPUBLISHED
August 15, 2013

In the Matter of K.M.S., Minor.

No. 314151
Ingham Circuit Court
Family Division
LC No. 12-000159-AD

Before: SAAD, P.J., and K. F. KELLY and GLEICHER, JJ.

SAAD, P.J. (*concurring*)

I write separately, in agreement with the majority, to emphasize a point seemingly obscured in the emphasis on moving the adoption proceedings expeditiously. While timeliness is important, the judiciary should never lose sight of the more important value inherent in the parent-child relationship.

At the heart of our State's constitutional, statutory and common law regarding the best interests of children is the fundamental principle that the parent-child relationship is to be given the highest priority, unless that relationship in and of itself is not in the best interests of the child. Otherwise, our guiding principle should be to promote and preserve this most cherished relationship. Because the majority's opinion recognizes and underscores this important point, I concur.

/s/ Henry William Saad