IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 1-592 / 01-370
Filed December 28, 2001

IN THE INTEREST OF B.N., and A.A.,
Minor Children,

G.A., Mother,
Appellant.

FILED
DEC 28 2001
CLERK SUPREME COURT

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Bremer County, Peter Newell, District Associate Judge.

The mother appeals the court's order terminating her parental rights. **AFFIRMED.**

Kellyann M. Lekar of Roberts, Stevens & Lekar, P.L.C., Waterloo, for appellant.

Thomas J. Miller, Attorney General, Kathrine Miller-Todd, Assistant Attorney General, Casey Wadding, County Attorney, and Marty Peterson, Assistant County Attorney, for appellee-State.

Chris Foy of Leslie, Collins & Foy, Waverly, for minor child.

Diane Larsen of Larsen Law Firm, Waterloo, for father.

Heard by Vogel, P.J., and Miller and Eisenhauer, JJ.

EISENHAUER, J.

A mother appeals the termination of her parental rights pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.116(1)(e) (2001). She argues the district court erred in terminating her parental rights because the grounds for termination were not proven by clear and convincing evidence and termination was not in the children's best interests. We review her claims de novo. *See In re M.T.*, 613 N.W.2d 690, 691 (Iowa Ct. App. 2000).

We find the mother's rights were properly terminated under Iowa Code section 232.116(1)(e). The mother concedes the first three elements of this section have been met, and we find overwhelming evidence that the children cannot be returned to her custody. We also find termination of the mother's rights to be in the best interests of the children. While the law requires a "full measure of patience with troubled parents who attempt to remedy a lack of parenting skills," this patience has been built into the statutory scheme of chapter 232. *In re C.B.*, 611 N.W.2d 489, 494 (Iowa 2000). Children should not be forced to endlessly await the maturity of a natural parent. *Id.* At some point, the rights and needs of the child rise above the rights and needs of the parent. *In re J.L.W.*, 570 N.W.2d 778, 781 (Iowa Ct. App. 1997). Accordingly, we affirm.

AFFIRMED.