No. 98-1324. [9-303] IN RE S.R.

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Black Hawk County, Daniel L. Block, Associate Juvenile Court Judge. **AFFIRMED.** Heard by Huitink, P.J., and Streit and Vogel, JJ. Opinion by Streit, J. (6 pages $2.40)

Faith, whose daughter, Shania, had fifteen broken bones by the age of three months caused by intentional abuse, appeals termination of her parental rights. Faith and Jason, Shania's father, have denied their involvement in the injuries, blaming medical professionals or congenital defects. Faith argues there is not clear and convincing evidence Shania could not be returned to the care of her parents, that reasonable services were not offered to reunite Shania with her mother, and that it is not in Shania's best interest to be returned to Faith's parents. She also argues the trial court erred in terminating parental rights rather than entering a permanency order placing Shania with her grandparents. **OPINION HOLDS:** Although Faith argues Shania's fifteen broken bones were caused by either medical providers or congenital defects, clear and convincing evidence shows the abuse was non-accidental and caused by one of Shania's care providers, either a parent or other family member. The services provided Faith were reasonable. Family reunification was a goal of DHS from the beginning of this case. To help achieve this goal, Shania was placed with her paternal grandparents, less than ten miles from Faith and Jason so that supervised visitation would be easy to facilitate. Faith and Jason were provided with family and social skill development training which covered the topics of parenting, communication of feelings, stress reduction, age-appropriate expectations for an infant, and anger management. A social worker from DHS provided direct Family Centered Services supervision. Faith did not make progress within the services provided. Particularly troubling is Faith's absolute refusal to acknowledge that either she, Shania's father, or another family member abused Shania. The requirement that a parent acknowledge and recognize abuse is essential for any meaningful change to occur. We find clear and convincing evidence Shania could not safely be returned to Faith's care and find it in Shania's best interests for Faith's parental rights to be terminated rather than a permanency order placing Shania under the custody of her paternal grandparents or returning Shania to Faith's care.