FILED
JUN 28 1983
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN THE INTEREST OF	)	
M.L. and E.L., Children,	)	Filed June 28, 1983
D.L., Mother,	)	
Appellant.	)	3-162 3-69472

Appeal from Polk District Court - Vincent M. Hanrahan, Judge.

Natural mother appeals from the juvenile court order terminating her parental rights. AFFIRMED.

Victoria L. Meade and Ted Marks of Marks, Marks & Marks, Des Moines, Iowa, for appellant.

Thomas J. Miller, Attorney General of Iowa, and Gordon Allen and Brent Hege, Assistant Attorneys General, for the appellee State.

George Arvidson, guardian ad litem.

Heard en banc.

PER CURIAM

Natural mother appeals from the juvenile court order terminating her parental rights. She contends the evidence was insufficient to show that she abandoned her two children or that they could not be returned to her custody. We affirm.

The two children involved in this proceeding, sisters born in 1975 and 1978, were adjudicated to be children in need of assistance in December, 1980. Both have been in foster care since that time. At the time of the CHINA adjudications, county social service workers entered into an agreement with the natural mother providing for weekly visitation. The mother visited the children sporadically for about six months; however, she has seen neither child since June 14, 1981.

In August of 1982, the State filed a petition to terminate the parental rights of the mother, the natural father of each child, and the man to whom the mother was married at the times of both births. Apparently none of the three men has had any contact with the children since their births; none of them participated in this litigation in any way. The petition alleged that the mother and all three men had abandoned the children; abandonment is a ground for termination under Iowa Code § 232.116(2). With regard to the mother, the petition alleged an additional ground for termination, namely that the children had previously been adjudicated children in need of assistance, had been in foster care for at least a year, and could not be returned to the mother's custody. Proof of these facts authorizes termination under Iowa Code § 232.116(5).

The juvenile court found that the mother and the three men had abandoned the children. The court also found that the children could not be returned to the mother's custody and that the other prerequisites for termination under § 232.116(5) had been met. Therefore the court terminated the parental rights of the mother and the three men on the grounds alleged in the petition.

In cases involving termination of parental rights, our review is **de novo.** In Interest of Dameron, 306 N.W.2d 743, 745 (Iowa 1981). Our primary concern is the best interests, immediate and long-range, of the children. Id. If the evidence is sufficient to support termination on either of the two grounds cited by the court in this case, its decision should be upheld. In Interest of Kelley, 262 N.W.2d 781, 785 (Iowa 1978).

We believe the record establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the mother abandoned her children. See Iowa Code §§ 232.2(1) (definition of "abandonment"); 232.116(2). After the children were judged to be in need of assistance and placed in foster care in December of 1980, the mother visited them occasionally; she stopped seeing them altogether in June, 1981. Brenda Clayton-Prince, the juvenile court probation officer involved in this case, testified that the mother made no attempts after June of 1981 to get reinvolved with her children. Clayton-Prince also testified that, in her view, the mother "didn't care" about trying to retain her parental rights. We believe these circumstances are sufficient to establish both elements of "abandonment" as defined in Iowa Code § 232.2(1); i.e., the intent to abandon and the acts by which the mother actually abandoned the children.

The juvenile court's order terminating the mother's parental rights is affirmed.

AFFIRMED.