FILED
APR 25 1989
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF DOUGLAS WAYNE MANSFIELD AND MARY ANN MANSFIELD

Upon the Petition of **DOUGLAS WAYNE MANSFIELD,**	)	247
Petitioner-Appellee,	)	
And Concerning **MARY ANN MANSFIELD,**	)	8-671 / 88-1147
Respondent-Appellant.	)	

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Polk County (DM CD 58-34601), Joel D. Novak, Judge.

Respondent appeals the decision of the district court granting physical custody of the parties' minor child to petitioner. **AFFIRMED.**

Patrick H. Payton and Ronald G. Gable, Des Moines, for respondent-appellant.

Charles A. Coppola, of Coppola, Gazzo & Clark, Des Moines, for petitioner-appellee.

Considered by Schlegel, P.J., and Hayden and Habhab, JJ.

PER CURIAM 248

Mary Ann Mansfield appeals the decision of the district court awarding primary physical care of her son, Ryan, to his father, Douglas. Mary argues Ryan's best interests are not served by this award. We disagree. Accordingly, we affirm.

The parties were married on March 16, 1985. Ryan was born on November 20, 1985. He is now three years old. Mary and Douglas separated during late summer and early fall of 1987. On September 8, 1987, the district court ordered temporary physical custody of Ryan to his father. He has had such custody since that date.

We review de novo. Iowa R. App. P. 4. We give weight to the trial court's findings of fact; but are not bound by them. Iowa R. App. P. 14(f)(7). In determining a question of primary physical care, our first and governing consideration is the best interests of the child. Iowa R. App. P. 14(f)(15). We must determine which parent can minister more effectively to the long-term interests of that child. In re Marriage of Welbes, 327 N.W.2d 756, 758 (Iowa 1982).

The best interests of a child may be determined by considering those factors set out in In re Marriage of Winter, 223 N.W.2d 165, 166-67 (Iowa 1974), and codified under Iowa Code section 598.41(3) (1987). However, ultimately the determination rests upon the peculiar facts

of each particular case. In re Marriage of Bevers, 326 N.W.2d 896, 898 (Iowa 1982).

Both parents love their child and the child loves his parents. Our most important objective is to place Ryan with the parent who will most effectively minister to the long-range best interests of the child. Welbes, 327 N.W.2d at 758. The trial court, in its findings, determined that Douglas was the better parent to fulfill this obligation. Although in our de novo review, we are not bound by the trial court's findings, we do give them weight, especially regarding the credibility of witnesses. We find no reason to disagree with the decree of the trial court. Accordingly, we affirm.

Each party shall pay his or her own appellate attorney fees. Costs on appeal are assessed to the appellant.

AFFIRMED.