FILED
DEC 17 1987
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

IN THE INTEREST OF D.K., Jr., J.K. and M.K., Children,

P.K., Appellant.

7-459
87-560

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Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Dubuque County (No. J 103137), Charles H. Jacobs, Judge.

The natural mother of three children appeals the juvenile court order terminating her parental rights pursuant to Iowa Code 232.116(5) (1985). **AFFIRMED.**

Mary Lynn Neuhaus of Dubuque for appellant.

Thomas J. Miller, Attorney General; Valencia Voyd McCown, Assistant Attorney General; and Jean A. Becker, Assistant Dubuque County Attorney, for appellee, State of Iowa.

Chad Cox of Dubuque for D.K., Sr., natural father.

Mary M. Schumacher of Roth & Schumacher, Dubuque, for the children.

Considered by Oxberger, C.J., and Donielson and Hayden, JJ.

OXBERGER, C.J. 181

The natural mother of three children is appealing the juvenile court's order terminating her parental rights. She asserts the evidence was insufficient to support the termination. The natural father has not appealed. We affirm.

Our review of the proceedings to terminate parent-child relationships is de novo. In the Interest of L.P., 370 N.W.2d 839, 840 (Iowa App. 1985); In the Interest of M.H., 367 N.W.2d 275, 278 (Iowa App. 1985). We accord weight to the fact findings of the juvenile court, especially when considering the credibility of the witnesses whom that court heard and observed firsthand, but we are not bound by them. Interest of L.P., 370 N.W.2d at 840; Interest of M.H., 367 N.W.2d at 278. Central to a determination of this nature are the best interests of the child. In Interest of Dameron, 306 N.W.2d 743, 745 (Iowa 1981). The State has the duty to see that every child receives minimally adequate care and treatment and will intercede when parents abdicate their responsibility. Interest of Dameron, 306 N.W.2d at 745; Interest of M.H., 367 N.W.2d at 278. The State may revoke the rights of parents if its allegations are proven by clear and convincing evidence. Iowa Code § 232.116(5)(c) (1985); Interest of Dameron, 306 N.W.2d at 745.

We are convinced termination is necessary in this case. The record reveals the father's alcohol abuse was a primary factor in the court's decision. The children were also abused, which led to the State becoming involved in this case. The natural mother continues to reside with the father. They are currently living n a home of the father's relative. This housing arrangement was found to be unsuitable by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

The record also shows the parents, particularly the father, were not able o consistently improve their parenting skills. The parents are not expected o be perfect, but they must show they can provide minimal care for their children. These parents have been unable to do this. They also did not show any real interest

in their children They missed several visitations with the children. When they did visit, the interaction between them was unsatisfactory The children are very prone to misbehave and the natural mother is not prepared or is disinclined to supply the necessary discipline

Finally, the record reveals that the parties are involved in a very stormy marriage They were instructed to receive counseling, but have failed to seek out that treatment The juvenile court noted that the parents have "elected to lead a life-style in which they are unable to sustain themselves. . . [and the] children cannot wait for their parents to provide for them " We agree, and hold that termination is in the best interests of the children

AFFIRMED.