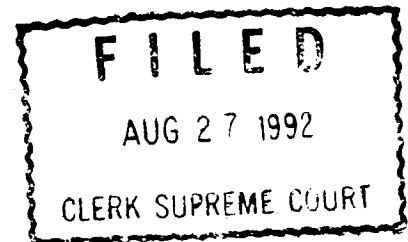


IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 2-370 / 92-169



IN THE INTEREST OF S.L., A Minor Child,
R.L., Mother,
Appellant.

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Cedar County,
James A. Weaver, District Associate Judge.

Mother appeals from a dispositional review order and a permanency order placing custody of the child with her father. **AFFIRMED.**

Bradley Norton of Norton & Norton, P.C., Lowden, for appellant.

Bonnie J. Campbell, Attorney General, John M. Parmeter, Special Assistant Attorney General, Judy Sheirbon, Assistant Attorney General, and Lee Beine, County Attorney, for appellee State.

L. Jeffrey Zearley, Tipton, guardian ad litem for the child.

Considered by Donielson, P.J., and Sackett and Habhab,
J.T.

SACKETT, J.

The birth mother of a child determined to be a child in need of assistance appeals an order placing custody of the child with her father. We affirm.

The child, Sandy Lee,¹ was born in June 1989. Sandy's mother, Ruth Lee,² and Sandy's father, Don Howe,³ were not married to each other. In April 1990 Sandy was found to be a child in need of assistance. A subsequent order provided Sandy should remain in Ruth's care. In August 1990 an order was entered determining Don was Sandy's father. In November Don made application to have Sandy's custody transferred to him. Don's application was denied. In May 1991 Sandy was put in a foster home. The juvenile court also concluded custody of Sandy should be placed with Don after a scheduled series of visitations. In January 1992 a permanency order was entered transferring custody to Don, subject to the protective supervision of the Department of Human Services. The order also provided for supervised visits between Ruth and Sandy.

Ruth appeals contending Don is not a proper custodian. Ruth does not contend she should have custody, rather, it

(1) The child's initials are S.L. Sandy Lee is not her given name.

(2) R.L. are the mother's initials. Ruth Lee is not her given name.

(3) D.H. are the father's initials. Don Howe is not his given name.

is her position the child should be returned to the home of her foster parents, and further services be made available to the birth parents to assist them in improving their parenting skills.

Both parents clearly love their daughter. They both have had deficiencies in parenting. There have been extended services to both of them. Don has reached a plateau where he wants Sandy, and the persons who have worked with the family are of the opinion Don is ready to accept custody subject to supervision. The providers do not find Ruth is ready to accept custody, a fact she does not contend.

The goal of any child in need of assistance proceedings is family reunification. See In re B.B., 440 N.W.2d 594, 596 (Iowa 1989). There is a rebuttable presumption the best interest of a child is served when his or her custody remains with his or her natural parents. See In re Chad, 318 N.W.2d 213, 218 (Iowa 1982). The State is required to continue to make reasonable efforts to see that children are returned home. See Iowa Code § 232.102(4); see also In re M.H., 444 N.W.2d 110, 112 (Iowa App. 1989).

The juvenile court has determined that with supervision the child can be in her father's care. On our de novo review of the record, we agree with this decision.

AFFIRMED.