FILED
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CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 9-254 / 89-15

294

IN THE INTEREST OF
J.J. and **S.F.**, Minor Children.

J.F., Mother,

Appellant.

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Dubuque County, Charles H. Jacobs, Juvenile Referee.

The mother of two children has appealed from the termination of her parental rights. **AFFIRMED.**

William A. Lansing, Dyersville, for appellant mother.

Thomas J. Miller, Attorney General; Kathrine S. Miller-Todd, Assistant Attorney General; and Jean Becker, Assistant County Attorney, for appellee State.

Mary Browne McCuskey of Clemens, King & McCuskey, Dubuque, guardian ad litem, for the children.

Heard by Donielson, P.J., and Schlegel and Habhab, JJ.

PER CURIAM

The mother appeals the decision of the juvenile court terminating her parental rights to her daughter, J.J. She contends 1) the State did not meet its burden of proof; 2) the petition for termination of parental rights was statutorily inadequate; and 3) the guardian ad litem appointed by the court to represent two of the appellant's children could not adequately represent both children effectively. We disagree and accordingly affirm.

Appellant, J.F., had four children. She agreed to the termination of her parental rights as pertains to two of the children. One other child, the youngest, remains at home. J.J. is the only subject of this appeal. She is currently five years old and the eldest of all four children.

J.J. was adjudicated in need of assistance in October of 1985. She was placed in foster care and subsequently returned to her parents, where she remained until 1987. At this time J.F. separated from her husband and took up residence in Ossian with her sister. J.J. was left with her father in Dubuque. J.J. was placed in foster care a second time as a result of her father leaving her at the baby-sitter's.

During this time, J.J.'s personality regressed after visits with her mother. J.F. was evaluated by Dr. Ann Ernst, Ph.D., at this time. Dr. Ernst testified that J.F.

could not adequately parent J.J. and that the child might be at risk for neglect if she was returned to the home.

Towards May of 1988, J.F. began to exhibit improvement concerning her parenting skills. However, by July of that year, overnight visits were canceled because J.F. resumed her historic patterns of violent behavior towards others to which the children were exposed.

Appellate review of proceedings to terminate a parent-child relationship is de novo; we review the facts as well as the law in adjudicating the parents' rights anew. In the Interest of Dameron, 306 N.W.2d 743, 745 (Iowa 1981). However, weight is to be accorded the findings of the juvenile court, particularly as regards the credibility of witnesses. Id.

Central to a determination of this nature are the best interests of the child. Id. Those best interests are to be determined by looking at the child's long-range as well as immediate interests. Id. The court is to consider what the future likely holds for the child if that child is returned to his or her parents. Id. Insight of that determination is to be gained from evidence of the parents' past performance, for that performance may be indicative of the quality of the future care that the parent is capable of providing. Id.

J.F. argues the State failed to meet its burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that J.J. would be

harmed if returned to her mother. It is not necessary that the State prove the child would be harmed if placed in the parental home. The Code requires only that any of the grounds specified in Iowa Code section 232.2(6) be proven by clear and convincing evidence. In the Interest of A.M.S., 419 N.W.2d 723, 725 (Iowa 1988).

J.F. consistently exhibited difficulties disciplining J.J., as well as administering and following through with medical care. In addition to this, J.F. was unable to provide J.J. with a stable environment; the family moved fourteen times in a twenty-six-month period and the children were exposed to their mother's aggressive and assaultive behavior towards others.

Next, J.F. argues the petition for termination of parental rights was statutorily defective. This argument is without merit. Upon review of the record, we find the petition adequately complies with the requirements of Iowa Code section 232.111.

Finally, J.F. asserts the guardian ad litem appointed to represent her children in these proceedings could not adequately represent their interests because it was recommended that not all of the children could be returned to the home. She argues as a result the children's interests conflicted with one another. We disagree. In the Interest of J.P.B., 419 N.W.2d 387, 392 (Iowa 1988).

For the above reasons, we affirm the decision of the juvenile court.

AFFIRMED.