IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

No. 8-179 97-1844

FILED
APR 24 1998
CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE INTEREST OF A.T., Minor Child,

J.H., Mother,
Appellant.

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Buchanan County, Stephen C. Clarke, Associate Juvenile Judge.

A mother appeals the termination of her parental rights. **AFFIRMED.**

James T. Peters, Independence, for appellant.

Thomas J. Miller, Attorney General, Chris Odell, Assistant Attorney General, and Andrea Dryer, Assistant County Attorney, for appellee State.

A. J. Flickinger, Independence, for minor child.

Considered by Sackett, P.J., and Vogel and Mahan, JJ.

VOGEL, J.

Jennifer is the mother of Verlenee, born in November 1991, and Arly, born in September 1994. This case involves Jennifer's appeal of the termination of her parental rights to Arly. The father of Arly is unknown.

After Verlenee was born, Jennifer voluntarily agreed to accept local services to help her care for the child. Verlenee is mentally and physically disabled. Jennifer has moved several times. In March 1995, she began living with John, who has an extensive criminal history.

In early 1996, Jennifer became resistant to services. Care providers had concerns about the children having poor hygiene and not having enough to eat. The Department of Human Services (DHS) became involved. DHS issued a founded report against Jennifer for denial of critical care. On March 26, 1996, the children were removed because Jennifer did not have any heat for her home. The children were placed with the maternal grandmother. The children were adjudicated to be children in need of assistance.

Jennifer married John in April 1996. Jennifer participated in parenting sessions, but did not make much progress. She expressed no understanding of why the children were removed from her care. The grandmother requested Arly be removed from her home so she could concentrate on caring for Verlenee. Arly was placed in a foster home in August 1996.

In September 1996, Jennifer had a psychological evaluation with Dr. George Harper. She was diagnosed with schizophrenia, generalized anxiety disorder, somatization disorder, and paranoid personality disorder. Dr. Harper determined Jennifer's disorders were severe, chronic, and liable to be resistant to treatment. He found Jennifer had a virtual absence of emotion and an inability to acknowledge wrong-doing. Dr. Harper was concerned because there was very little bonding between Jennifer and Arly.

John was sent to prison in October 1996 for a probation violation. Jennifer admitted herself to a mental health institute in November 1996. She left treatment after four days. She attended two sessions of individual counseling with John Bandstra, a licensed social worker. Bandstra found Jennifer's denial was so complete he was unable to develop a treatment plan for her.

In January 1997, Jennifer received a second opinion from Dr. Robert Schultice. He also diagnosed Jennifer with schizophrenia and placed her on medication. Dr. Schultice found Jennifer was living in a world of her own—a childlike, paranoid world.

After Jennifer began taking medication she became better able to express her feelings. She became more consistent in attending parenting sessions and supervised visitation. Jennifer presently lives in an apartment owned by her mother-in-law, Mary

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Ann, and is employed at Mary Ann's restaurant. Jennifer receives social security disability benefits. Mary Ann is her payee.

Arly has no special needs and is considered adoptable. The foster parents have expressed an interest in adopting her.

On April 21, 1997, the State filed a petition to terminate Jennifer's parental rights to Arly. The juvenile court found Jennifer continued to display significant deficits in parenting. On October 14, 1997, the court terminated Jennifer's parental rights under Iowa Code sections 232.116(1)(c) and (g). Jennifer now appeals.

The scope of review in termination cases is de novo. *In re S.N.*, 500 N.W.2d 32, 34 (Iowa 1994). The grounds for termination must be proven by clear and convincing evidence. *In re E.K.*, 568 N.W.2d 829, 830 (Iowa App. 1997). Our primary concern is the best interests of the child. *In re A.B.*, 554 N.W.2d 291, 293 (Iowa App. 1996).

Jennifer contends the State did not provide reasonable and timely services designed to reunite her with Arly. She states that although she was provided with significant services, her mental illness prevented her from benefitting from these services. Jennifer believes she did not receive appropriate services until February 1997, when she was placed on medication. She asks for an additional period of time for treatment of her mental condition before her parental rights are terminated.

Parents have an obligation to demand services prior to the termination hearing. *In re B.K.K.*, 500 N.W.2d 54, 57 (Iowa 1993). Services should be challenged when the case plan is entered. *In re L.M.W.*, 518 N.W.2d 804, 807 (Iowa App. 1994). There is no evidence Jennifer demanded additional or different services prior to the termination hearing. We determine Jennifer has not preserved this issue for appellate review.

Even if the issue were to be addressed on the merits, we believe Jennifer received reasonable services. Furthermore, giving Jennifer additional time to address her problems would not be in Arly's best interests. When the statutory time standards found in section 232.116 are approaching, and a parent has made only minimal progress, the child deserves to have the time standards followed by having termination of parental rights promptly pursued. *In re J.L.W.*, 570 N.W.2d 778, 781 (Iowa App. 1997).

We affirm the decision of the juvenile court which terminated Jennifer's parental rights to Arly.

AFFIRMED.