Court of Appeals, State of Michigan

ORDER

IN RE FIELDS MINORS

Docket No. 370646

LC No. 2023-000855-NA

Kristina Robinson Garrett
Presiding Judge

Michelle M. Rick

Kathleen A. Feeney
Judges

This Court's August 29, 2025 opinion and order vacated the order denying termination of respondent-father's parental rights and remanded this case, while retaining jurisdiction, to the trial court to determine whether the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) established grounds for termination under MCL 712A.19b(3). If the trial court found that the DHHS established grounds for termination, the trial court was to state its findings of fact and conclusions of law on the record or in writing pursuant to MCR 3.977(I)(1) and then determine whether termination was in the children's best interests. On remand, in an October 22, 2025 opinion and order, the trial court found that the DHHS established by clear and convincing evidence the statutory ground for termination under MCL 712A.19b(3)(j) (reasonable likelihood the child will be harmed if returned to the parent). See *In re Ellis*, 294 Mich App 30, 32; 817 NW2d 111 (2011). The trial court then held a hearing to determine whether termination was in the minor children's best interests. On January 21, 2026, the trial court entered an order finding that termination was in the children's best interests and terminated respondent's parental rights. Respondent subsequently claimed an appeal from the termination order.

Because the trial court entered an order terminating respondent's parental rights, we VACATE the portion of the August 29, 2025 remand order directing the parties to challenge the trial court's decisions on remand within this appeal, prohibiting the parties from initiating a new appeal from orders entered on remand, and directing the Clerk to reject new appeals from such orders. Respondent's claim of appeal from the termination order shall proceed in this Court. Further, because the remand proceedings have rendered moot any remaining appellate issues in this appeal, this appeal is DISMISSED. MCR 7.211(C)(2); MCR 7.216(A)(7). We do not retain jurisdiction.

Kristina Robinson Garrett
Presiding Judge

A true copy entered and certified by Jerome W. Zimmer Jr., Chief Clerk, on

February 23, 2026
Date

Chief Clerk