Court of Appeals, State of Michigan

ORDER

IN RE CAMPBELL MINORS

Docket No. 378362

LC No. 24-016842-NA

James Robert Redford
Presiding Judge

Randy J. Wallace

Christopher M. Trebilcock
Judges

The motion for immediate consideration is GRANTED.

Pursuant to MCR 7.211(C)(4) and MCR 7.205(E)(2), and in lieu of granting the application for leave to appeal, we PEREMPTORILY REVERSE the November 3, 2025 order of the circuit court and REMAND for proceedings before a different judge. The trial judge in this case expressed views that "experience teaches that the probability of actual bias on the part of the judge or decisionmaker is too high to be constitutionally tolerable[.]" *People v Loew*, 514 Mich 158, 185; 22 NW3d 323 (2024) (citation and quotation marks omitted). To that end, the court's comments give rise to an unacceptably high likelihood that the judge may have prejudged the outcome in this case. See *id*. Notably, the court expressly stated, while rejecting a sentencing agreement in a related criminal case, that "I'm not reunifying" respondent with his children, given the allegations at issue. The court again stated at the same hearing, "I'm not doing that," meaning that it would not sanction a resolution of the criminal case that would have allowed respondent to be reunited with his children. These comments suggest that the court may have prejudged the outcome of this abuse and neglect proceeding, at which the subject of respondent's potential reunification with his children is the primary issue.

A different judge shall be appointed on remand. This order is to have immediate effect. MCR 7.215(F)(2). We do not retain jurisdiction.

Presiding Judge

Redford, J., respectfully dissents. I would deny the application for leave to appeal. I believe the chief circuit judge was correct in his well-reasoned eight-page opinion denying the request for disqualification of the trial judge following de novo review.

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

January 12, 2026
Date

Chief Clerk