

OPINION SUMMARY

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

	)	Nos. ED112602 and ED112603
	)	
	)	Appeals from the Circuit Court
IN THE INTEREST OF L.M.S. & L.S.S.,	)	of St. Louis County
	)	Cause Nos. 23SL-JU00044,
Minors.	)	23SL-JU00045
	)	
	)	Honorable Jason D. Dodson
	)	
	)	Filed: March 18, 2025

Appellant (Mother) appeals the trial court's judgments terminating her parental rights to L.M.S. and L.S.S., arguing the trial court erred in finding clear, cogent, and convincing evidence supporting termination of parental rights (TPR) for abuse or neglect, failure to rectify, unfitness, and finding TPR was in the best interests of the children.

AFFIRMED.

Division Three Holds: Substantial evidence supports the trial court's judgment that Mother failed to rectify the conditions that led to the assumption of jurisdiction of the children, pursuant to Section 211.447.5(3), and the trial court did not abuse its discretion in finding TPR was in the best interests of the children pursuant to Section 211.447.7. Mother failed to sign a service plan but was aware of its contents. She initially undertook some services by completing a psychological evaluation and parenting assessment, but her participation in resulting education, therapy, and drug screens treatment for substance abuse was minimal or nonexistent. She did not obtain stable housing or employment, and she often did not respond to the Children's Division's attempts to contact her. She did not regularly visit the children and had not seen them in over a year at the time of the trial court's TPR judgment. The children's guardian ad litem and case manager both testified the children did not have emotional ties with Mother, her actions showed a lack of interest and commitment to the children, and more time or services would not likely bring about change, as Mother had not participated in the services offered.

Opinion by: Gary M. Gaertner, Jr., J.,
Philip M. Hess, P.J., and Renee D. Hardin-Tammons, J. concur.

Attorney for Appellant: Linda A. Colburn
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Attorney for Respondent (Children's Division): Maudi Gomez
Attorney for Juvenile: Christa L. Chenoweth-Beracha
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