

OPINION SUMMARY

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS EASTERN DISTRICT

IN THE INTEREST OF: G.G.B., C.T.B.,)	No. ED98879
and T.J.B., minors)	Appeal from the Circuit Court
JUVENILE OFFICER OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY)	of St. Louis County
MISSOURI, Petitioner/Respondent,)	Honorable Kristine A. Kerr
v.)	Date: March 5, 2013
M.W., Respondent,)	
and)	
T.B., Respondent/Appellant.)	

The juvenile officer filed three petitions to terminate the parental rights of father and mother to their three children pursuant to section 211.447 RSMo (Cum. Supp. 2007),¹ naming both parents in each petition. After a hearing limited to termination of father's parental rights, the trial court entered "Supplemental Findings/Recommendation, Order, Judgment and Decree of Court" terminating father's parental rights to the children. It did not adjudicate the termination of mother's parental rights, and no judgment has been entered with respect to mother.

AFFIRMED.

Division Two Holds:

1. The judgment terminating father's parental rights is a final judgment, order, or decree from which an appeal is allowed under section 211.261.1.
2. The trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying father's motion for continuance when father never appeared or offered an explanation for his failure to appear at the termination hearing, and the court had ascertained that father had been clearly informed of the date and place of the hearing as recently as the day before.
3. The trial court did not err in finding that clear, cogent, and convincing evidence supported termination of father's parental rights pursuant to section 211.447.4(3) RSMo (Cum. Supp. 2007).
4. The trial court did not abuse its discretion in making its findings under section 211.447.7 RSMo (Cum. Supp. 2007).

Opinion by: Kathianne Knaup Crane, P.J.
Mary K. Hoff, J. and Lisa Van Amburg, J., concur.

Attorney for Petitioner/Respondent: Alli Wolff

Attorney for Respondent/Appellant: Janice M. Lauer

¹ All further statutory references are to RSMo (Cum. Supp. 2007).

Guardian ad Litem:

John Bird

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT PART OF THE OPINION OF THE COURT. IT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE READER AND SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED OR CITED.