

¹ Initials have been used throughout to protect the identity of the juvenile.

The Forsyth County Department of Social Services ("DSS") filed a juvenile petition on 26 June 2009 alleging that K.K. was a neglected and dependent juvenile. DSS obtained non-secure custody of K.K. on the same day. The trial court adjudicated K.K. neglected and dependent in an order entered on 30 October 2009. The trial court later vacated that order, after learning that K.K. was the subject of an ongoing custody matter in New Jersey. On 8 October 2010, a joint order was entered in which the Passaic County, New Jersey Superior Court, Chancery Division-Family Part, ceded jurisdiction of all matters involving K.K., and the Forsyth County District Court accepted jurisdiction of all matters involving K.K. DSS filed a new juvenile petition, and in an order entered on 12 October 2010, the trial court adjudicated K.K. neglected.

On 18 March 2011, DSS filed a petition to terminate the parental rights of respondent-father and K.K.'s mother, alleging the following grounds for termination: (1) neglect; (2) willfully leaving the juvenile in foster care for more than twelve months without showing reasonable progress to correct the conditions that led to removal; (3) willful failure to pay a reasonable portion of the cost of care for the juvenile; and (4) willful abandonment. See N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-1111(a)(1)-(3),

(7) (2011). Following a hearing on 13 and 15 June 2011, the trial court entered an order on 7 July 2011 concluding that all four grounds existed to terminate respondent-father's parental rights. The trial court then determined that termination of respondent-father's parental rights was in the best interest of K.K. Respondent-father gave timely notice of appeal. The trial court also terminated the parental rights of K.K.'s mother, but she does not appeal.

Respondent-father's counsel has filed a no-merit brief on respondent's behalf in which counsel states that she "has made a conscientious and thorough review of the record on appeal and concludes that there is no issue of merit on which to base an argument for relief and that the appeal would be frivolous." Pursuant to North Carolina Rule of Appellate Procedure 3.1(d), counsel requests that this Court conduct an independent examination of the case. Counsel has also shown to the satisfaction of this Court that she has advised respondent-father of his right to file written arguments with this Court, and counsel has provided him with the documents necessary to do so. Respondent-father has not filed his own written arguments.

Counsel directs our attention to the following potential issues on appeal: whether the trial court erred by (1) denying respondent-father's motion to continue the termination hearing; (2) denying respondent-father's motion for recusal; (3) holding there was sufficient evidence to support the findings of fact and sufficient findings of fact to support the conclusion that respondent-father's parental rights be terminated based on willful failure to pay a reasonable portion of the cost of care for the juvenile pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-1111(a)(3); and (4) receiving a predisposition report prior to determining whether grounds for termination existed. Counsel, however, acknowledges that she is unable to set forth any issue of merit on which to base an argument for relief.

After carefully reviewing the transcript and record, we are unable to find any error in the trial court's order. The trial court's findings of fact support at least one ground for termination pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 7B-1111, and the trial court did not abuse its discretion in determining that termination was in the best interests of K.K. pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7B-1110 (2011). Furthermore, we conclude that the trial court did not abuse its discretion in denying respondent-father's motion to continue, did not err in denying respondent-father's motion

for recusal, and did not commit reversible error in receiving the predisposition report prior to determining whether grounds for termination existed.

Accordingly, following careful review of the record, we find no error in the trial court's order terminating respondent-father's parental rights to K.K.

Affirmed.

Chief Judge MARTIN and Judge McCullough concur.

Report per Rule 30(e).