

BOISE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2024, AT 10:30 A.M.

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Docket No. 52140

In the Matter of: Jane Doe I, a Child)
Under Eighteen (18) Years of Age.)
JANE DOE,)
)
Petitioner-Respondent,)
)
v.)
)
JOHN DOE (2024-35),)
)
Respondent-Appellant.)
)

Appeal from the Magistrate Division of the District Court of the First Judicial District, State of Idaho, Kootenai County. Hon. John A. Cafferty, Magistrate.

Eric D. Fredericksen, State Public Defender; Jay W. Logsdon, Interim Chief Public Defender, Coeur d'Alene, for appellant.

Ian D. Smith, Coeur d'Alene, for respondent.

This case involves the magistrate court's termination of John Doe's (Doe) parental rights. Doe is the father of Jane Doe I (Child) in this action. Pursuant to a court order in 2015, respondent Jane Doe (Mother) retained sole legal and physical custody of Child. Until 2015, Doe participated in visits with Child and sporadically provided support. In 2023, Mother sought to terminate Doe's parental rights. Following a trial, the magistrate court terminated Doe's parental rights on the ground of abandonment. Further, the magistrate court found that termination is in Child's best interests. Doe appeals, arguing the magistrate court erred in finding termination is in Child's best interests. Doe argues that in private terminations, it can never be in the best interests of a child to lose one parent without a prospective adoptive parent. Additionally, Doe argues that Child has a right to financial support from both parents that, against public policy, would be eliminated by termination.