

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Docket No. 45995

This case involves Jane Doe's ("Mother") appeal of the Twin Falls County magistrate court's termination of her parental rights to her minor children, Jane Doe II ("T.T.") and John Doe II ("D.T."). On February 7, 2017, John and Jane Doe I ("Guardians") filed a petition to terminate Mother's parental rights to T.T. and D.T. After holding a one-day trial, the magistrate court ordered written closing arguments by both parties. The trial court found: (1) Mother had neglected her children; (2) Mother had abandoned her children; and (3) termination of Mother's parental rights was in the best interest of the children. Because each of these findings was supported by clear and convincing evidence, the trial court granted Guardians' request for termination. The trial court entered a final judgment to that effect on May 11, 2018. Mother timely appealed, arguing that the district court abused its discretion on all three findings. The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the magistrate court having determined that (1) Mother waived the issues of neglect and abandonment on appeal for failure to support them with argument, and (2) the trial court's determination that termination of Mother's parental rights is in the children's best interests was supported by substantial, competent evidence.