

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Idaho Dep't of Health and Welfare v. Doe

Docket No. 46482

The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed a Lincoln County magistrate court's judgment terminating the parental rights of John Doe ("Father") to his minor children. The children were placed in the custody of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (the "Department") following a March 2016 petition under the Child Protection Act. After the filing of the petition, Father stipulated to an unstable home environment. The court then ordered Father to follow a case plan provided by the Department. Roughly eight months later, the State filed a motion to terminate Father's parental rights based on his failure to comply with the case plan. After holding a trial, the court terminated Father's parental rights.

Father timely appealed arguing that the trial court's finding of neglect was not supported by substantial, competent evidence and that the court erred by not considering how Father's periods of incarceration affected his ability to comply with the case plan. The Idaho Supreme Court held that the trial court's finding of neglect was supported by substantial, competent evidence and that Father failed to demonstrate that compliance with his case plan was impossible.