

SUMMARY STATEMENT

State of Idaho, Dep't of Health & Welfare
v. John Doe (2020-48)
Docket No. 48445

John Doe (Father) appeals from the judgment terminating his parental rights to his five minor children. On appeal, Father argues substantial and competent evidence does not support the magistrate court's findings that the termination of his parental rights is in his children's best interests. He asserts that he has been successful in addressing substance abuse issues; he is aware of and can provide for the children's many special needs; and the coronavirus severely affected and limited his ability to work his case plan.

The Idaho Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment terminating Father's parental rights. The Court ruled that substantial and competent evidence supports both the magistrate court's conclusion that the termination of Father's parental rights is in the children's best interests. Further, the Court ruled that substantial and competent evidence supports the magistrate court's findings that Father has failed to adequately address his substance abuse issues and has failed to demonstrate the ability to provide for the children's care and well-being. Finally, the Court ruled Father failed to make a cogent argument explaining how the pandemic thwarted his efforts to work his case plan and noted the magistrate court acknowledged the pandemic's impact on the nature and quality of visitation and did not attribute any visitation difficulties related to the pandemic to Father.

This summary constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court, but has been prepared by court staff for the convenience of the public.