

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PARENTAL  
RIGHTS AS TO I. J. L.

No. 38501

SHERRY L. R.,  
Appellant,

vs.

THE STATE OF NEVADA DIVISION  
OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
RESOURCES,  
Respondent.

FILED

FEB 05 2003

JANE TE M. BLOOM  
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
BY *J. Richards*  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER OF AFFIRMANCE

This is an appeal from a district court order terminating appellant's parental rights.

In order to terminate parental rights, a petitioner must prove by clear and convincing evidence that termination is in the best interests of the child and must establish parental fault.<sup>1</sup> "This court will uphold termination orders if they are based on substantial evidence, and will not substitute its own judgment for that of the trial court."<sup>2</sup> In the present case, the district court determined that it is in the child's best interest that appellant's parental rights be terminated. The district court further found

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<sup>1</sup>See Matter of Parental Rights as to N.J., 116 Nev. 790, 8 P.3d 126 (2000); NRS 128.105.


<sup>2</sup>Matter of Parental Rights as to Carron, 114 Nev. 370, 374, 956 P.2d 785, 787 (1998), overruled on other grounds by N.J., 116 Nev. 790, 8 P.3d 126.

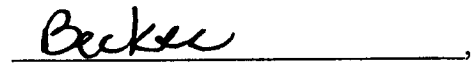
by clear and convincing evidence that appellant is an unfit parent and that appellant failed to adjust her conduct within a reasonable time.<sup>3</sup>

On appeal, appellant's counsel argues that this appeal is frivolous. The only reference to issues appellant wishes to advance is counsel's statement that it is appellant's goal "to reunify with [the child], and that it would be her desire to continue this appeal to its conclusion." While we find counsel's brief completely inadequate, we conclude that judicial economy would be best served by our independent review of the record.<sup>4</sup> Having reviewed the record, we conclude that the district court's decision is supported by substantial evidence. Accordingly, we

ORDER the judgment of the district court AFFIRMED.<sup>5</sup>

 J.  
Shearing

 J.  
Leavitt

 J.  
Becker

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<sup>3</sup>See NRS 128.105(2)(c); NRS 128.105(2)(d); NRS 128.0126; NRS 128.018.

<sup>4</sup>See In re Adoption of V.G., 751 A.2d 1174, 1178 (2000).

<sup>5</sup>Pursuant to NRAP 34(f)(1), we have determined that oral argument is not warranted in this appeal.

cc: Hon. Gerald W. Hardcastle, District Judge, Family Court Division  
Attorney General Brian Sandoval/Las Vegas  
Jeffrey A. Cogan  
Clark County Clerk