

**IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA**

No. 6-935 / 06-1559  
Filed November 30, 2006

**IN THE INTEREST OF B.J., Minor Child,**

**A.R., Mother,**  
Appellant.

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Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Polk County, Gregory D. Brandt,  
District Associate Judge.

A mother appeals from the termination of her parental rights to her son.

**AFFIRMED.**

Tracie Rickers of Kragnes, Tingle & Koenig, P.C., Des Moines, for  
appellant.

Thomas J. Miller, Attorney General, Kathrine S. Miller-Todd, Assistant  
Attorney General, John P. Sarcone, County Attorney, and Jess Vilsack, Assistant  
County Attorney, for appellee.

Matthew Cunningham, Des Moines, for father.

Kathryn Miller, Juvenile Public Defender, Des Moines, guardian ad litem  
for minor child.

Considered by Sackett, C.J., and Zimmer and Eisenhauer, JJ.

**SACKETT, C.J.**

A mother appeals from the order terminating her parental rights to her son. She contends the court erred (1) in not granting her motion to continue the termination hearing; (2) in terminating her parental rights under Iowa Code sections 232.116(1)(d), (e), and (h) (2005); and (3) in concluding termination was in the child's best interest. On de novo review, we affirm. See *In re C.H.*, 652 N.W.2d 144, 147 (Iowa 2002).

The child was born in April of 2005. His parents consented to his removal in August due to their substance abuse. The mother has a long-standing substance abuse problem. At first she was compliant with treatment, but admitted relapsing in May of 2006. In July the State petitioned to terminate the mother's parental rights under sections 232.116(1)(d), (e), and (h). At the start of the hearing in September, the mother's attorney moved for a continuance because the mother was with her boyfriend at the time of the hearing, while he had surgery on his finger. The court denied the motion for continuance. Following the hearing, which the mother did not attend, the court terminated the mother's parental rights under the sections pled.

**A. Continuance.** The mother contends the court should have granted her motion to continue the termination hearing so she could be with her boyfriend during his finger surgery. The juvenile court should not grant a continuance without good cause. Iowa Ct. Rule 8.5; see *In re K.A.*, 516 N.W.2d 35, 36-37 (Iowa Ct. App. 1994). We review the denial of a motion for continuance for an abuse of discretion standard and will reverse only if injustice will result to the party desiring the continuance. *In re C.W.*, 554 N.W.2d 279, 281 (Iowa Ct. App.

1996). The denial must be unreasonable under the circumstances before we will reverse. *Id.* Because of the urgency of termination proceedings, a court is not obligated to grant a parent's motion for continuance because "children simply cannot wait for responsible parenting." *In re L.L.*, 459 N.W.2d 489, 495 (Iowa 1990). We conclude the court did not abuse its discretion in denying the motion to continue.

**B. Statutory grounds.** The juvenile court terminated the mother's parental rights under Iowa Code sections 232.116(1)(d), (e), and (h). When the court terminates a parent's rights on more than one statutory ground, we need find termination proper under only one ground to affirm. *In re R.R.K.*, 544 N.W.2d 274, 276 (Iowa Ct. App. 1995). The evidence convinces us the child could not be returned to the mother at the time of the termination hearing. We affirm the termination under Iowa Code section 232.116(1)(h).

**C. Best interest.** Although raised under the rubric of best interest, the mother claims there is a bond between her son and her that should not be broken. See Iowa Code § 232.116(3)(c). The parent-child bond was not raised in the termination hearing or ruled on by the juvenile court. Consequently, it was not preserved for appeal and there is nothing for us to review.

**AFFIRMED.**