

ARKANSAS COURT OF APPEALS

DIVISION III

No. CA11-0027

LEAH PETTON

APPELLANT

V.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

APPELLEE

Opinion Delivered April 27, 2011

APPEAL FROM THE BENTON
COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
[NO. JV-09-771-3]

HONORABLE JAY T. FINCH, JUDGE

AFFIRMED; MOTION TO
WITHDRAW GRANTED

JOSEPHINE LINKER HART, Judge

Leah Petton's parental rights to M.M., born July 20, 2007, and J.M., born April 16, 2009, were terminated by the Benton County Circuit Court. Petton's appellate counsel has filed a motion to withdraw and a no-merit brief pursuant to *Linker-Flores v. Arkansas Department of Human Services*, 359 Ark. 131, 194 S.W.3d 739 (2004), and Ark. Sup. Ct. R. 6-9(i). The brief states that the termination hearing produced no adverse rulings other than the termination decision and explains why no meritorious ground for reversal exists. Our clerk's office attempted to furnish Petton with a copy of counsel's brief and motion; however, Petton was no longer incarcerated and her counsel had no forwarding address. Neither the Arkansas Department of Human Services nor the attorney ad litem who brought the termination petition has filed a brief. We affirm the termination order and grant appellant counsel's motion to withdraw.

After examining the record and the brief presented to us, we find that counsel has complied with the requirements established by the Arkansas Supreme Court for no-merit appeals in termination cases and also conclude that the appeal is wholly without merit.¹ Accordingly, we grant counsel's motion to withdraw and affirm the order terminating Petton's parental rights.

Affirmed; motion to withdraw granted.

GRUBER and MARTIN, JJ., agree.

¹We are intrigued by the fact that the minor children have been placed with a man who is the biological father of one of the children and that this termination order relieves the biological mother of any responsibility with regard to the children she brought into this world. Nowhere in the record can we find even a suggestion that forcing her to pay child support for her offspring has been considered in the best-interest-of-the-child analysis.