

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS, SIXTH APPELLATE DISTRICT

In re M.Y.

2026-Ohio-1892 · No. L-25-00278 · Decided May 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The Sixth District Court of Appeals of Ohio affirmed the Lucas County Juvenile Division’s judgment terminating the mother’s parental rights and awarding permanent custody of M.Y. and J.Y. Jr. to Lucas County Children Services. The court upheld findings that the children could not or should not be placed with the mother within a reasonable time and that permanent custody was in their best interests, based on the mother’s inconsistent counseling, housing and safety concerns, and failure to substantially remedy the conditions leading to removal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Ohio Court of Appeals, Sixth Appellate District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Christine E. Mayle; Thomas J. Osowik; Charles E. Sulek
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Sixth Appellate District
DECIDED	May 22, 2026
DOCKET	L-25-00278
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Mother appealed the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division's judgment terminating her parental rights and awarding permanent custody of M.Y. and J.Y. Jr. to Lucas County Children Services.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Sufficiency-of-the-evidence and manifest-weight-of-the-evidence review, as appropriate to the arguments presented, apply to a juvenile court's permanent-custody determination. The appellate court must consider the evidence and reasonable inferences, witness credibility, and whether the trial court clearly lost its way, while giving substantial deference to the trial court as factfinder. The statutory findings must be supported by clear and convincing evidence.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Ohio Court of Appeals opinion
PARTIES	M.R., mother v. Lucas County Children Services

TOPICS

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parental rights

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PRACTICE AREAS

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court's award of permanent custody to Lucas County Children Services was against the manifest weight of the evidence.
2. Whether the trial court's finding under R.C. 2151.414(E)(1), that mother continuously and repeatedly failed to substantially remedy the conditions causing the children's removal, was against the manifest weight of the evidence.
3. Whether the trial court's undisputed finding under R.C. 2151.414(B)(1)(d), that the children had been in agency custody for 12 or more months of a consecutive 22-month period, independently supported the award of permanent custody.

HOLDINGS

1. A finding under R.C. 2151.414(B)(1)(d) is an independent and sufficient basis for satisfying the first statutory requirement for an award of permanent custody. Because mother did not challenge the trial court's finding that the children had been in LCCS's temporary custody for 12 or more months of a consecutive 22-month period, the award was properly affirmed without addressing the alternative R.C. 2151.414(B)(1)(a) and (E)(1) findings.
2. The trial court correctly found under R.C. 2151.414(B)(1)(d) that the children had been in LCCS's temporary custody for 12 or more months of a consecutive 22-month period, and that finding supported the award of permanent custody.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“ “[T]he findings under R.C. 2151.414(B)(1)(a) and R.C. 2151.414(B)(1)(d) are alternative findings, [and] each is independently sufficient to use as a basis to grant the Agency’s motion for permanent custody.” ” (¶ 72)

“ Because the trial court correctly found that the children had been in LCCS’s temporary custody for 12 or more months out of a consecutive 22-month period, it made a (B)(1) finding that is supported by clear and convincing evidence and is not against the manifest weight of the evidence.” (¶ 73)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Lucas County Children Services became involved after reports of domestic violence between the parents and chronic school absenteeism by M.Y. The children were adjudicated dependent and placed in LCCS's temporary custody, while mother participated inconsistently in counseling and other case-plan services, continued to test positive for THC, lacked stable housing, and maintained at least intermittent contact with father despite domestic-violence and child-safety concerns. The children remained in agency custody for at least 12 months of

a consecutive 22-month period. The trial court found that permanent custody was in the children's best interests and that they could not safely be returned to mother.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lucas County Children Services filed a dependency and neglect complaint in January 2024, and the parents agreed to a dependency finding. After the children remained in the agency's temporary custody, the agency moved for permanent custody in April 2025. Following a permanent-custody hearing, the trial court found the statutory requirements satisfied, determined that permanent custody was in the children's best interests, terminated mother's parental rights, and awarded permanent custody to LCCS. The Sixth District affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- In re Dor.B., 2018-Ohio-2666, ¶ 64 (6th Dist.)
- In re B.K., 2010-Ohio-3329, ¶¶ 42-43 (6th Dist.)
- In re S.J., 2024-Ohio-5137, ¶ 29 (6th Dist.)
- In re Carlos R., 2007-Ohio-6358, ¶ 38 (6th Dist.)
- In re J.S., 2025-Ohio-17, ¶ 34 (6th Dist.)
- Cross v. Ledford, 161 Ohio St. 469 (1954), paragraph three of the syllabus
- In re Tashayla S., 2004-Ohio-896, ¶ 14 (6th Dist.)
- In re Z.C., 2023-Ohio-4703, ¶¶ 11, 13-14, 18
- In re C.W., 2025-Ohio-282, ¶ 37 (10th Dist.)
- Eastley v. Volkman, 2012-Ohio-2179, ¶ 20
- In re P.W., 2012-Ohio-3556, ¶ 20 (6th Dist.)
- Seasons Coal Co., Inc. v. Cleveland, 10 Ohio St.3d 77, 80, fn. 3 (1984)
- In re C.P., 2009-Ohio-2760, ¶ 10 (10th Dist.)
- In re I.H., 2020-Ohio-4853, ¶ 34 (6th Dist.)
- In re A.M., 2015-Ohio-2740, ¶ 14 (3d Dist.)
- In re M.R., 2013-Ohio-1302, ¶ 80 (3d Dist.)
- In re L.G., 2024-Ohio-4554, ¶ 44 (6th Dist.)
- In re R.A., 2022-Ohio-1748, ¶ 34 (6th Dist.)