



J.D.R.

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APPELLANT

APPELANTE

- and -

-et-

MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Now
the MINISTER OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN)

MINISTRE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT SOCIAL
(maintenant le MINISTRE DES FAMILLES ET
DES ENFANTS)

RESPONDENT

INTIMÉ

Motion heard by:
The Honourable Justice Baird

Motion entendue par :
l'honorable juge Baird

Date of hearing:
March 23, 2018

Date de l'audience :
le 23 mars 2018

Date of decision:
March 28, 2018

Date de la décision :
le 28 mars 2018

Counsel at hearing:

Avocats à l'audience :

For the appellants:
J.D.R. on her own behalf

Pour les appelants :
J.D.R., en son propre nom

For the respondent:
Lisa Bianca DiBonaventura

Pour l'intimé :
Lisa Bianca DiBonaventura

DECISION

- [1] This is a status hearing concerning a Notice of Appeal filed on August 11, 2017 by J.D.R., a self-represented litigant. Although, the Notice of Appeal was filed in the time prescribed by the *Rules*, it has never been formally served on the Respondent; however, the Respondent is aware of the proceedings and participated in the status hearing.
- [2] This appeal raises a number of issues. Firstly, J.D.R. asserts in her Notice of Appeal, she had only two “short meetings” with a lawyer in preparation for the guardianship hearing and, as a result, she submits “major facts” of her case were not “displayed properly”.
- [3] She advises she applied to the Legal Aid program to have counsel assigned to her for the appeal process, and was denied. She states she appealed the denial and has had no reply. She has discussed the situation with a lawyer who ostensibly is looking into the matter; however, J.D.R. did not file documents to support her assertion she was denied legal aid services.
- [4] She is selling her belongings in order to raise the funds necessary to pursue the appeal. Needless to say, the transcript from the guardianship proceedings has not been ordered. In the meantime, the child who is the subject matter of these proceedings is three and one half years of age and is living with a family who wishes to adopt him. This matter must be resolved in the best interests of the child.
- [5] Given the interests at stake in these proceedings, J.D.R. shall have until June 28, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. to perfect the appeal, failing which the appeal shall be dismissed without notice.

[6] The Notice of Appeal which issued August 11, 2017, shall be served forthwith on the Minister of Social Development. Because J.D.R. has been given until June 28, 2018 to perfect the appeal, I invoke s. 24(2) of the *Official Languages Act*, S.N.B. 2002, c. O-0.5, and order the release of this decision in the English language with the French version to follow in due course.

BARBARA L. BAIRD, J.A. / j.c.a.
Court of Appeal of New Brunswick / Cour d'appel du Nouveau-Brunswick