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| **Local authority  social work evidence template**  **(Final statement)** |  | In the family court sitting at  FDAC/Milton Keynes |
|  | In the matter of the children act 1989 |

Use of this document is recommended by the President of the Family Division, the Association of Directors of Children’s Services, Cafcass, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, the Department for Education, the Ministry of Justice and the Chair of the Family Justice Board, in compliance with the revised Public Law Outline (PLO) 2014.

**The child**

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| **Names** | **Gender** | **Date of Birth** | **Child’s current placement status** | **Child’s current  legal status** |
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| **Local Authority and Social Worker details** | |
| Filed by [local authority] | Buckinghamshire Council |
| Social work statement number in the proceedings |  |
| Social work statement number for this witness |  |
| This author/witness’s name, qualifications, experience, and office address | I am FILL IN NAME. I have been the allocated Social Worker since FILL IN DATE. I am based in the FILL IN Team based in FILL IN.  I qualified as a social worker in FILL IN having obtained a FILL IN – degree/diploma. |
| This author/witness’s HCPC registration number |  |

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| **1. Case details** |
| Include any updates. |
| This is the Local Authority’s final evidence and care planning for FILL IN NAMES. I have been the allocated social worker for the CHILD(REN) since FILL IN DATE. I respectfully ask that the Court reads this statement in conjunction with the previous statements filed by the Local Authority which set out the concerns and updates about the CHILD(REN)’s welfare. This statement will only detail any updating evidence since this time.   * Add in what Orders the child/ren are subject to and where they are placed. * Add in any updates since the last statement written on this case. (this will also be detailed in the chronology so just a few sentences/paragraphs) |

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| **2. The social work chronology** |
| Update since the last statement was filed. |
| * Only add in from the date the last chronology finished – you do not need to rehearse what has already been written in other statements here. |

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| **Date** | **Event** | **Detail** | **Source**  (Witness or Document Ref) |
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| **3. Analysis of risk and protective factors** |
| Final position where different from earlier statements in the case. |
| TOP TIPS  You can EITHER write this section under each heading of physical, emotional and sexual harm and neglect OR Look at the threshold document and use each heading set out as that is what harm the LA say has happened.  DO NOT write about parenting capacity – just thinking about what the issue means for the child. Save the parenting capacity for the box it goes in.  Use the SO WHAT question. State the problem/concern and then say so what? So what does this mean for the child? Both NOW and in the FUTURE:  EXAMPLE: Parental Substance Misuse.   * Set out what drugs the parents have been known to use, over what period or if this is a chronic issue. * Then use SO WHAT in terms of harm   The Mother and Father have been known to use…. For … years….  The concerns around parental drug misuse not only relate to the direct impact of drug use on a person’s parenting capacity and decision making in that moment, but also the associated concerns. These include: risky associates, impact on the family’s finances, drug paraphernalia being found by the children, and criminality. There is also the issue of how physically and emotionally available the parents would have been to the children, including during any potential emergency. All of which would result in harm to the children. There is not only the immediate harm to consider, but also the long-term impact of this. Children who are brought up where drug use is normalised and where they have not had their needs met may well follow the same path as their parents and misuse drugs as a form of self-medication. |

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| **4. Child impact analysis** |
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| **Child’s Name**  **Identity and Culture**   * Age * Gender * Ethnic background * Child of who? Siblings? What has contact been like? * Describe their physical appearance (one sentence)   **Health**   * Any physical health issues? Dentist/opitician? * Are there are any health needs due to neglect/harm? (fillings? Teeth out?) * Have there been any health needs resolved since being in care?   **Education**   * Are they where they should be? * What has their attendance been like? What was it like before they came into care? * Have they made progress? * Do they enjoy school? What are their favourite subjects?   **Emotional, Behavioural and Social Development**   * Presentation: What are they like? How do they come across? Has this changed? From at home and now in care? * Any CAMHS input? * Any therapeutic support? * Are they able to regulate their emotions? * Do their emotions spill over? * Does this impact their friendships? * How do they cope with changes? * Have they been aggressive or upset, etc?   **Contact**   * What do they think of this? * Is their behaviour any different before and after this? * Is there any fallout from this? * Do they enjoy seeing their parents/siblings?   (Use the care plan to set out future contact plans/reduction plans) |

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| **5. Analysis of Parenting Capability** |
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| Only use the relevant headings for this.  TOP TIP – where you can write about a strength please do so – it makes this section more balanced. Or if the parent is vulnerable and you can understand why there are overwhelmed by their own neeeds – say that. Again, being empathetic will demonstrate you have come to a balanced view.  **Mother (fill in name)**  **Presentation**  What are they like? Have they been polite or engaging? How do they come across?  **Current Circumstances**  Where do they live?  Are they in work?  Are they in a relationship?  Only a few sentences to set the scene  **Health**  Do they have any physical health issues?  Do they have mental health issues?  What medication are they on?  Are they engaging in treatment?  How does this impact their parenting? (are they emotionally available? Do they have ups and downs?)  Do they have insight into this?  Has their been a psychiatric assessment – summarise in a few sentences what the outcome was?  Has their been a psychological assessment – summarise in a few sentences what the outcome/concerns highlighted were?  **Substance Misuse/Alcohol Misuse (delete as appropriate)**   * What are they using? * How long have they been using? * Have they egnaged with services for this? * Do they have insight into this? * Have they achieved abstinence? If yes, for how long?   **Relationships**   * Is there a pattern of unhealthy relationships? * Are they in a relationship? Do you have any concerns about this? (How long have they known each other? How did they meet? Are they making quick/risky decisions?) * Is the relationship a risk or a strength? * Has there been domestic abuse now or in the future? * Are they prone to entering these relationships? * Do they have a pattern as a victim/perpetrator? * Have they been on any courses – Freedom/Perpetrators Programmes? Did they benefit from this? Have they gained any insight from this?   **Parenting**   * Did they engage with the parenting assessment? * What were the conclusions of the parenting assessment? * Can they do basic parenting well? * Do they understand risks? * Do they understand their children’s needs? * Have they attended contact? What has their parenting been like?   **Support Network**   * Who do they have in their personal support network? Have they done what they say they will? Will the support continue? * Who do they have in their professionals support network? Can this continue?   **Summary**   * Draw together what you have written about. * What conclusion have you come to? * Can they do this? * Can they sustain their changes? * Do you agree with the assessments that have taken place?   **Father (fill in name)**  **Presentation**  What are they like? Have they been polite or engaging? How do they come across?  **Current Circumstances**  Where do they live?  Are they in work?  Are they in a relationship?  Only a few sentences to set the scene  **Health**  Do they have any physical health issues?  Do they have mental health issues?  What medication are they on?  Are they engaging in treatment?  How does this impact their parenting? (are they emotionally available? Do they have ups and downs?)  Do they have insight into this?  Has their been a psychiatric assessment – summarise in a few sentences what the outcome was?  Has their been a psychological assessment – summarise in a few sentences what the outcome/concerns highlighted were?  **Substance Misuse/Alcohol Misuse (delete as appropriate)**   * What are they using? * How long have they been using? * Have they egnaged with services for this? * Do they have insight into this? * Have they achieved abstinence? If yes, for how long?   **Relationships**   * Is there a pattern of unhealthy relationships? * Are they in a relationship? Do you have any concerns about this? (How long have they known each other? How did they meet? Are they making quick/risky decisions?) * Is the relationship a risk or a strength? * Has there been domestic abuse now or in the future? * Are they prone to entering these relationships? * Do they have a pattern as a victim/perpetrator? * Have they been on any courses – Freedom/Perpetrators Programmes? Did they benefit from this? Have they gained any insight from this?   **Parenting**   * Did they engage with the parenting assessment? * What were the conclusions of the parenting assessment? * Can they do basic parenting well? * Do they understand risks? * Do they understand their children’s needs? * Have they attended contact? What has their parenting been like?   **Support Network**   * Who do they have in their personal support network? Have they done what they say they will? Will the support continue? * Who do they have in their professionals support network? Can this continue?   **Summary**   * Draw together what you have written about. * What conclusion have you come to? * Can they do this? * Can they sustain their changes? * Do you agree with the assessments that have taken place? |

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| **6. Analysis of wider family and friends capability** |
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| Set out each person who has been assessed  **Name (Family Relationship)**  Has an IVA been completed? Were they negative or positive?  Was an SG assessment? What was the outcome?  What are the strengths?  What are the vulnerabilities?  How strong is their relationship with the child?  What has their contact been like with the child?  Would they need a testing period?  Do the children live with them? How has this been going?  Have they had independent legal advice?  What is your conclusion of the care they can offer? |

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| **7. The proposed S31A care plan – the ‘realistic options’ analysis** | | | |
| SET out the LA’s preferred option first and then down the list  Be really clear about the strengths and the concerns for each placement. Set out each one. | | | |
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| First realistic option: | |  | |
| Factors in favour | | | Factors against |
|  | | |  |
| Second realistic option: | |  | |
| Factors in favour | | | Factors against |
|  | | |  |
| Third realistic option: | |  | |
| Factors in favour | | | Factors against |
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| **8. The range of views of parties and significant others** |
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| **Mother (NAME)**  **Father (NAME)**  **Family Member (NAME and Relationship)**  **IRO (NAME)**  **Guardian (NAME)** |

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| **9. Statement of procedural fairness** |
| Steps taken to ensure procedural fairness since the last statement was filed. |
| Set out:   * The LA has advised parents/family of the care plans. * The parents have solicitors * Have they got any learning difficulties? State these were taken into account during your interactions and the assessment process. * Have advocates been needed? Or Communicourt assessment? * Have wider family members been offered legal advice? * Have wider family members become party to proceedings? * Have wider family members been told how to challenge negative IVAs? |

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| **10. Conclusion** |
| The Local Authority’s Position and the Orders Sought |
| What care plan does the LA want?  Why is this?  State you have balanced all of the realistic options.  What Orders are you seeking? |

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| **11. Signature** |  | |
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| Print full name |  | |
|  |  | |
| Role/position held |  | |
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|  | **The facts in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the opinions set out are my own.** | |
| Signed |  | |
|  |  | |
| Date |  |  |