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| **Local authority Ratification Section 20 form** |  | In the Family Court sitting at  |
|  | In the matter of the Children Act 1989 |

**The purpose of this form is to start the statement process and stop the duplication of other forms. This form is to be the referral for Legal Panel. It is expected that this form will be added to over time and will not come to Legal Panel as a complete document.**

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| **Local Authority and Social Worker details:**  |   |
| This author/ Social Worker’s name, qualifications and office address:  |   |
| I have been the allocated Social Worker for the child/ren since:   |   |
| Team Manager’s name:  |   |
|  Filed by [local authority]:   |   |
| Court case number   | ***Not needed for legal panel***   |
| Social work statement number of this witness e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and date of statement  | ***Not needed for legal panel***   |
| Social work statement number in the proceedings, e.g. 1st, 2nd (**N.B**. A final statement should be completed on the Final Statement Template)   | ***Not needed for legal panel***   |

**The child(ren) – use one per template per family**

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| **Name**   | **Gender**   | **Date of Birth**   | **Nationality**   | **Ethnicity**   | **Child’s current placement status**  | **Child’s current**  **legal status**  |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|    |    |    |    |    |   |   |

**Circumstances that led to the child or young person being accommodated under Section 20**

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| **For Legal Panel describe what happened which led to the young person being accommodated under Section 20.** |

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| **1. Case details** |
| * 1. **Family composition – fill in for legal panel**
* This section should include family members and relationships, and should specify the relationship in respect of each child subject to the application. Please set out the family members' full names, their dates of birth, their nationality, ethnicity and their current addresses.
* Where an address needs to be kept confidential, send the information to the court
* . Please state who has Parental Responsibility for the child
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| **Name** | **Relationship** | **Parental Responsibility** | **DOB** | **Nationality** | **Ethnicity** | **Address** |
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**1.2 Genogram (mandatory) Fill in for Legal Panel**

* Include family members and their relationship to each child.

Include all other relatives

**Key:**

Female

Male

 **2. Scaling and Analysis regarding the stability of the placement, including Danger Statement / Safety Goals**

**Describe how the young person has settled into the placement, and what has contributed to this, including consideration of any perceived risks to placement stability.**

**3. Child impact analysis (for each individual child)**

**3.1 Description of the child’s daily life and experience of where they are being accommodated**

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| **For legal panel say what the impact has been on the children of their experience of being accommodated – what is the child’s experience. Bullet points are fine.** |

**3.2 Analysis of the child’s needs, considering the welfare checklist (see Section 9).**

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| **Evidence used here can be primary – the direct experience of the social worker – or secondary – the social worker’s evaluation of evidence from assessments or the views of other people who know the child/ren or who have assessed their needs.** |

**3.3 The child’s wishes and feelings and how these have been identified**

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| ***Guidance:*** *It is important that how, when and in what circumstances the child/ren’s views were expressed is documented here. For the very young, and those with additional needs or disabilities which may limit verbal communication, the use of creative approaches and direct observation and interpretation by social workers is crucial.* *This space may be used to summarise the direct work that has been completed with the child and the outcome of this, who they enjoy spending time with, plus their view of the care plan and their understanding of Section 20 (where applicable).* |

**3.4 The child’s own statement (where applicable)**

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| **Not needed for legal panel.** |

**4. What action would the Local Authority take if the person with PR were to withdraw their consent to the child being accommodated?**

**Describe for Legal Panel what actions would be taken if parents/ carers withdrew consent for Section 20.**

**5. Is the current plan sufficient to provide the child/young person with permanency?**

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| 1. **What is the plan?**
2. **Has the plan been agreed with the parents and any other holder of parental responsibility?**
3. **When was the most recent CIC review and what are the views of the IRO?**
4. **Has the purpose and duration of the child/ young person’s accommodation been agreed and how often is this reviewed?**
5. **Are there any restrictions on the child/young person’s libvery that require court authorisation?**
6. **Are there any immigration issues concerning the child/young person?**
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**7. Do the Local Authority need to issue care proceedings?**

**Explain your thinking behind this.**

**Please note that where a child is orphaned, this does not mean that the Local Authority hold Parental Responsibility for the child.**

**The Local Authority does not hold Parental Responsibility for unaccompanied Asylum seeking children.**

**8. Signature**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Print full name |  |
|  |  |
| Role/position held |  |
|  |  |
|  | **I make this statement from my reading of the Children and Young People’s Services records and from my own personal knowledge. I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.** |
| Signed |  |
|  |  |
| Date |  |  |

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| **9. The welfare checklist in full for reference** |

The full Children Act checklist, to be used in care and supervision proceedings is found at section 1(3) (a) – (g) and requires the court to have regard to the following matters:

1. The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children concerned (considered in the light of his/her/their age and understanding);
2. His/her/their physical, emotional and educational needs;
3. The likely effect on him/her/them of a
4. any change in his/her/their circumstances
5. His/her/their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant;
6. Any harm which he/she/they has/have suffered or is/are at risk of suffering;
7. How capable each of his/her/their parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his/her/their needs;
8. The range of powers available to the court under this Act (Children Act 1989) in the proceedings in question.

25. The full Adoption and Children Act welfare checklist, to be used in care proceedings where the plan is for adoption and in placement proceedings, is found in section 1 (4) (a) – (f) and requires the court and the adoption agency to have regard to the following matters (among others):

1. the child’s ascertainable wishes and feelings regarding the decision (considered in the light of the child’s age and understanding),
2. the child’s particular needs,
3. the likely effect on the child (throughout his life) of having ceased to be a member of the original family and become an adopted person,
4. the child’s age, sex, background and any of the child’s characteristics which the court or agency considers relevant,
5. any harm (within the meaning of the Children Act 1989 (c. 41)) which the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering,
6. the relationship which the child has with relatives, and with any other person in relation to whom the court or agency considers the relationship to be relevant, including:
7. the likelihood of any such relationship continuing and the value of the child of its doing so,
8. the ability and willingness of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, to provide the child with a secure environment in which the child can develop, and otherwise to meet the child’s needs,
9. the wishes and feelings of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, regarding the child.

**Appendix**

## **10. The social work chronology (last two years)**

* *List significant events which can be evidenced. It may be helpful to include details of the nature of assessments carried out, family engagement, interventions and their successes. Please note there is no need to include detailed supervision notes here.*
* *Focus on the* ***last two years*** *unless prior events are felt to be both significant and relevant, then provide a summary drawing out key incidents or events in the box, below [NB delete this guidance text before submitting].*

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| **Date** | **Incident or sequence of incidents relevant to the child’s welfare** | **Significance** |
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### **12.1 If there has been involvement with the family over a longer period, please summarise this involvement here.**

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| ***Guidance:*** *Summarise historic incidents and events of relevance e.g. any previous proceedings with a connected person, if this seems helpful for context purposes and is not covered in the chronology of the last two years, above.*   |

**[All guidance text to be deleted before submitting to the court]**