**Wiltshire Council**

**The Children Act 1989 - Section 20 (Voluntary Accommodation) Agreement**

I agree for my child ……………………………………………… to be looked after by Wiltshire Council.

I will still have full legal parental responsibility for …………………………………………

It has been explained to me/us that a Section 20 agreement involves me/us agreeing for our child being placed in foster care (or alternative accommodation) and staying in foster care (or alternative accommodation). It has been explained that

I/we have the following rights:

1. To say no to this proposal[[1]](#footnote-1)\*
2. To change our mind at a later date and bring this agreement to an end at any time
3. To obtain legal advice about this agreement
4. For the agreement to be kept under review and to be considered by an independent reviewing officer at each Looked After Child Review.
5. To know where my child will be living and who he/she will be living with

While my child is in care I will be offered the following support and help so that my child can return to my care when I am ready to care for him/her:

***Insert the help that will be offered to the parent in order for their child to be able to return to them***

While my child is in care the Local Authority will expect me to:

***Insert the expectations of the Local Authority in terms of engagement and change to enable the child to return to the parent/s***

I have read this agreement and I agree to its terms

Mother’s name ………………………………………… (PR Yes / No)

Mother’s signature …………………………………………

Date: …………………………………………

Father’s name ………………………………………… (PR Yes / No)

Father’s signature …………………………………………

Date: …………………………………………

Carer with Parental Responsibility name …………………………………….

Carer with Parental Responsibility signature …………………………………….

Date: …………………………………….

The Social Worker should sign below to confirm the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a) | A Head of Service for Wiltshire Council has agreed that S20 accommodation is appropriate in this case.  | [ ] |
| b) | That they have ascertained the wishes and feelings of the child to be accommodated and the child’s agreement to be accommodated( where the child has appropriate levels of understanding )  | [ ] |
| c) | That they are satisfied that the parent signing this document has the capacity to do so. ( if child over 16yrs see section H)  | [ ] |
| d) | That having that capacity, the consent is informed consent, considering 1. Does the parent fully understand the consequences of giving such consent?
2. Does the parent fully appreciate the range of choice available and the consequences of refusal as well as giving consent?
3. Is that parent in possession of all the facts and issues material to the issue of giving consent?
 | [ ][ ][ ] |
| e) | Even where the parent is consenting, the social worker must consider whether it is necessary and proportionate for the child to be in foster care and should have considered particularly:1. That current physical and psychological state of the parents?
2. If they have a solicitor, whether they have been encouraged to seek legal advice/advice from family and friends?
3. Is it necessary for the safety of the child for him/her to be removed at this time?
4. Would it be fairer in this case for this matter to be the subject of a court order rather than an agreement?
 | [ ][ ][ ][ ] |
| f) | And that considering all of these matters, they consider the voluntary accommodation of the child is necessary (record analysis of these matters on the child’s file). | [ ] |
| g) | If the parent is not fluent in English, this written document should be translated into the parent’s own language and the parent should sign the foreign language text, adding, in the parent’s language, words to the effect that ‘I have read this document and I agree to its terms’. | [ ] |
| h) | If the young person is 16 or 17 years old, they do not need the consent of those with parental responsibility in order to be accommodated by the local authority. |  |

Social worker name ……………………………………………………

 (on behalf of Wiltshire Council)

Social worker signature ……………………………………………………

Date: ……………………………………………………

1. \* If the young person is 16 or 17 years old, they do not need the consent of those with parental responsibility in order to be accommodated by the local authority. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)