**LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN’S SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

**APPROVAL OF STATEMENT TO COURT IN CHILDREN’S PROCEEDINGS**

This form should be completed in every case where a Written Statement is being submitted to Court. Where the Directorate is to be legally represented, the original should be forwarded with the Statement to the Directorate’s Legal representative and a copy retained on the case file with the copy of the Statement. In cases where the Statement is to be filed with the Court direct, the original of the form should be retained on the case file.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In respect of: |  |
| Being heard at: |  |
| Statement to be filed by: |  |
| Statement prepared by: |  |

A completed Statement for submission to the Court had been prepared in respect of the above named child.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I confirm that I have read and approved the attached report. | [ ]  |
| I confirm that where applicable, all significant resource implications have been considered and approved on behalf of the Directorate by the Area Manager. | [ ]  |
| I confirm that to the best of my knowledge, this Statement has been complied in accordance with the procedure “Reporting to Court: Preparing Written Statements”. | [ ]  |
| Signed: |  | Practice Manager |
| Date: |  | Date forwarded to Court or Directorate’s Legal representative |

Section 7 Report in Private Law Proceedings

Subject child/ren

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name  | D.O.B  | Age  | Ethnicity  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Parties

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name  | D.O.B  | Relationship to child/ren  | Ethnicity  |
|  |  |  |  |

Significant others

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name  | D.O.B  | Relationship to child/ren | Location  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Application before the Court and details of previous Court orders**

Current application before the Court

Previous application in respect of the children

Any previous order either in historical proceedings or in current proceedings

List the request from the Court

**Brief summary of Children's Services involvement**

How long have children's services been involved with Children's Services?

General themes to emerge during the course of children's services involvement, by way of example domestic violence, section 47 enquiries, registration on CPR, non-school attendance, police involvement etc. (Keep it brief!)

What has been the nature of involvement over last two years?

**Wishes and feelings of the child giving due regard to their age and level of understanding**

What are the Child's wishes and feelings in respect of application before the Court?

How realistic are they i.e. child's understanding of issues pertaining to safeguarding.

To what extent has the child been coached or pressured into formulating such views

**Safeguarding issues**

What are the safeguarding issues in this matter? Be specific but brief.

What action can be taken to minimise any safeguarding concerns if application were to be granted

**Analysis of issues**

Focus on the issues and provide an analysis of these.

There should be minimal description and when used only to highlight a point.

Any further resources which might be needed for successful progress of matter

Expectations of the parties in terms of ensuring that child's needs are met

Do not focus on representing the views of the parties.

**Recommendation to the Court**

Outline clear recommendations, eg shared residence, residence to one party and level of contact type and how it should take place.