Filed on behalf of Gloucester County Council (Applicant)

( ) Statement of *Initials and Surname*

Exhibits:{ }

Date Made: 00.00.00

IN THE FAMILY COURT

Case No: [CASE NO]

IN THE MATTER OF : [CHILD/REN] [DOB]

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1989

BETWEEN:

GLOUCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

Applicant

and

[MOTHER]

1st Respondent

and

[CHILD/REN]

(by his/her/their Children’s Guardian – [guardian])

2nd Respondent

**FINAL STATEMENT (Single issue)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FULL NAME:** | [SOCIAL WORKER] |
| **AGE:** | Over 21 |
| **OCCUPATION:** | SOCIAL WORKER |
| **POSITION HELD:** | *Your post* |
| **EMPLOYER:** | GLOUCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL (Applicant) |
| **PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS:** | [TEAM] |

**I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.**

**Signed: ………………………………………………………………………**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

If you are the children’s present allocated social worker, but have not filed a previous statement, (ie the case has transferred to you after proceedings were issued/during the proceedings) please complete paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 below. Alternatively, if there has been no change in social worker, please delete paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 and replace with the following paragraph: I remain the children’s allocated social worker and this statement should be read in conjunction with my statement(s) dated …………….

* 1. I, insert name am a qualified Social Worker employed by Gloucestershire County Council within its Children's Services Department, since put in dates. I obtained my Social Work Qualification in insert year at College/University/Other and am registered with the General Social Care Council. I have … years social work experience.
  2. I am authorised to make this Statement on the Applicant's behalf and I do so from facts within my knowledge, information obtained from my colleagues or from Children’s Services Departmental Records. This information is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
  3. I am the allocated social worker for ……*insert full name of child/ren*…..and I have been allocated since….*insert date*….

1. **FAMILY COMPOSITION**

2.1 The family composition is:-  
  
*(Please set out the family members' full names, their dates of birth and their current addresses)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Relationship | Parental Responsibility | DOB | Ethnicity | Address |
|  | Subject |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mother | Yes |  |  |  |
|  | Father |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **UPDATE SINCE LAST STATEMENT**
   1. *(Please set out an update since your last statement. There should be a good concise narrative which can include engagement with services and contact etc.)*
2. **ASSESSMENTS CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE PROCEEDINGS AND SOCIAL WORK ANALYSIS**
   1. *(Please outline each assessment undertaken within the proceedings and your social work analysis of the assessment and what this means for the child.)*
3. **TIMETABLE FOR THE CHILD**
   1. I am mindful that in cases before the court which are considered single issues, justice and the interest of the child demand that where possible an early determination of the final case is warranted.
   2. This statement aims to reduce the delay in decisions being made about a child’s long term permanence and provides clarity over what further assessment or processes are required.
   3. *(Please set out the impact of delay upon the child, including any key milestones/dates for the child eg starting school, importance of attachments etc. You may want to set out ‘we need a decision in …amount of time and if there is a delay beyond that then the impact would be…’)*
4. **SW analysis of all options**
   1. Set out the realistic options and your analysis based on the assessments to date. Spend time considering these options and NEVER suggest that you have a firm view before the court has made its findings.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Determination made by the court** | **Threshold** | **Plan** | **Type of Order** |
| 1 | An accident which was unexpected and unintentional | Not found to have been reached | No element of wrong  No further role for social care | No Order |
| 2 | An injury/series of injuries as a result of an unknown cause where no finding is made against either parent | Threshold not reached | No element of wrong  Potential supporting role for social care under CIN | No Order. Assistance under S17 CA 1989 |
| 3 | An inflicted injury/series of injuries by an unknown person where no finding is made against either parent | Threshold not reached | Potential further work with the parents under CIN | No Order. Assistance under S17 CA 1989 |
| 4 | An injury/series of injuries as a result of a **deliberate infliction** by both parents or by a parent where the other parent failed to protect the child from harm | Threshold reached | No return to the family except in exceptional circumstances and depending upon the injuries sustained, consideration of remaining with an approved family member (Which should be completed in readiness for this hearing) | Care order or placement with family member under SGO or Private Law Order |
| 5 | An injury/series of injuries as a result of a **deliberate infliction** by parent where the other parent did not fail to protect the child from harm | Threshold reached | A potential for the non-perpetrating parent to care.  (Within your analysis take a view about the other’s ability to protect from future harm based on your discussions. You may then conclude that no further assessment is required and matters can be concluded immediately or that further tailored assessment is needed and provide timescales.)  (This scenario usually requires a period of reflection by the parents and any statement following this is an updated statement based upon their understanding of facts and acceptance of blame and whether you can safely work with them.) | under CAO/SO |
| 5a |  |  | ***Where parents remain together :*** the perpetrating parent accesses support; complies with a risk assessment, counselling and both comply with a Child Protection Plan (depending upon the seriousness of the injuries) |  |
| 5b |  |  | ***Where parents are separated:*** parent with care to be offered support and advice around contact managing the perpetrating parents care. Potentially family assessments around supporting contact. |  |
| 6 | An injury/series of injuries as a result of a **deliberate infliction** where the parents are in the pool of potential perpetrators | Threshold reached | Depending on the injuries there may be potential for further work with the parents.  (As 4 above) | under CAO/ISO |
| 7 | An Injury as a result of **wrong doing/omission/negligence or recklessness** caused by an unknown person, where the parents failed to protect the child from harm | Threshold reached | (Within your analysis take a view about the ability to protect from future harm based on your discussions. You may then conclude that no further assessment is required and matters can be concluded immediately or that further tailored assessment is needed and provide timescales.) |  |
| 8 | An Injury as a result of wrong doing/omission/negligence or recklessness caused a parent or another, where the other failed to protect the child from harm | Threshold reached | (Explore options  Within your analysis take a view about the other’s ability to protect from future harm based on your discussions. You may then conclude that no further assessment is required and matters can be concluded immediately or that further tailored assessment is needed and provide timescales.) | Removal or return to the family with a Child Protection Plan/ SO/CO |
| 8a |  |  | ***(by a parent)***  ***Where parents remain together :*** Potential work around parenting, anger management, advice and support around the triggers for the cause of the harm (where this has not already been assessed in the SW analysis) where risk is reduced to manageable | Potentially higher level of monitoring and management of plan under CO/SO |
| 8b |  |  | ***(by a parent)***  ***Where parents are separated:***  An exploration of the reasons for failing to protect and work around awareness and reducing future risk. | Potential lesser order SO or Under CP s17 CA 1989 |
| 8c |  |  | **(by another)** | Advice under s17 |
| 9 | An Injury/series of injuries as a result of wrong doing/omission/negligence or recklessness caused a parent, where the other did not fail to protect the child from harm | Threshold crossed | The non perpetrating parent is to beoffered **s**upport and guidance to be provided to address the vulnerability to further behaviour which could result in harm  (Within your analysis take a view about the other’s ability to protect from future harm based on your discussions. You may then conclude that no further assessment is required and matters can be concluded immediately.) | Advice under s17. |

1. **WELFARE CHECKLIST**
   1. In considering the need to make this application, the Local Authority has given consideration to the welfare checklist in accordance with Section 1(3) (a) – (g) of the Children Act 1989 as follows:

**(a) the ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/ren concerned (considered in the light of his/her/their age and understanding);**

**(b) his/her/their physical, emotional and educational needs;**

**(c) The likely effect on him/her/them of any changes in his/her/their circumstances;**

**(d) his/her/their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant;**

(**e) any harm which he/she/they has/have suffered or is/are at risk of suffering;**

**(f) 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/are of meeting his/her/their needs;**

(**g) the range of powers available to the Court under this Act in the proceedings in question.**

1. **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

(*Please state what options are available to court, the Order you are asking the Court to make and briefly outline why)*

* 1. The court will determine the facts of this case and determine whether the injuries are accidental in nature. If they are deemed non-accidental the Court will then go on where it can to identify the person responsibility and to determine whether any carer givers failed to protect or contributed in some way to the harm the child has suffered. In providing this statement I am mindful that these decisions are yet to be determined and have completed the possible options for permanency on the information that is currently available.
  2. Summary of options set out at paragraph 8, these are not intended to form an exclusive list merely represent the options in this case:

[SOCIAL WORKER]

Social Worker

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**EXHIBIT(S)**

**There is now shown to me and marked “@@1” [description of document/bundle of documents]**

**If exhibiting a bundle of similar documents (eg letters, school attendance records etc) arrange in chronological order with the earliest (oldest) at the top.**

**Signed: ………………………………………………………………………**

[name]

Social Worker