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| **Local authority  social work evidence template**  **(Final statement)** |  | In the family court sitting at |
|  | 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(ren)**

* Use one template per family

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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** | |
| Case number |  |
| Filed by [local authority] |  |
| Social work statement number in the proceedings, e.g. 1st, 2nd  N.B. A final statement should be completed on the Final Statement Template (FST) |  |
| Social work statement number for this witness e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd |  |
| This author/witness’s name, qualifications, experience, and office address |  |
| This author/witness’s HCPC registration number |  |

This document is confidential and contains sensitive information. It should not be disclosed without permission of the court. Data protection standards must always be complied with.

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| **1. Case details** |
| Include any updates. |
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| **2. Identified Patterns of Harm and Timetable for the child** |
| Update since the last statement was filed. |
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| **3. Analysis of risk and protective factors** |
| Final position where different from earlier statements in the case. |
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| **4. Child impact analysis** |
| Set out any additional evidence and analysis. |
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| **5. Analysis of Parenting Capability** |
| Set out any additional evidence and analysis. |
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| **6. Analysis of wider family and friends capability** |
| Set out any additonal evidence and analysis. |
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| **7. The proposed S31A care plan – the ‘realistic options’ analysis** | | |
| Final position/s where different from earlier statements in the case. | | |
| **Child** | **Placement with Parent/s, insert Name of Parent/s** | |
|  | **Factors in Favour** | **Factors Against** |
|  |  |
| **Available Support:** | | |
|  | **Placement with Relatives/Connected Persons, insert name of relative and specify the nature of legal order e.g. Child Arrangement Order/SGO/Adoption** | |
| **Factors in Favour** | **Factors Against** |
|  |  |
| **Available Support:** | | |
|  | **Placement with Foster Carer, insert Name of Foster Carer and specify the nature of the legal order e.g. Care Order/Child Arrangement Order/SGO.** | |
| **Factors in Favour** | **Factors Against** |
|  |  |
| **Available Support:** | | |
|  | **Residential Care and specify the nature of the legal order e.g. Care Order** | |
| **Factors in Favour** | **Factors Against** |
|  |  |
| **Available Support:** | | |
|  | **Adoption (Specify whether Agency or Non-Agency)** | |
| **Factors in Favour** | **Factors Against** |
|  |  |
| **Available Support:** | | |

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| **8. The range of views of parties and significant others** |
| Final position/s where different from earlier statements in the case. |
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| **9. Statement of procedural fairness** |
| Steps taken to ensure procedural fairness since the last statement was filed. |
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| **10. Signature** |  | |
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| Print full name |  | |
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| 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 |  |  |

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| **11. The welfare checklist** |

*(This needs to be completed in full)*

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 any change in his/her/their circumstances
4. His/her/their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant;
5. Any harm which he/she/they has/have suffered or is/are at risk of suffering;
6. 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;
7. 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.