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| In the Family Court sitting at Bristol |
| In the matter of the Children Act 1989 |

**Local Authority**

**Social Work Evidence Template**

**(Final Statement)**

**Version: May 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Names** | **Gender** | **Date of birth** | **Child’s current placement status** | **Child’s current legal status** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local Authority and Social Worker details** | |
| Court case number |  |
| Filed by [local authority] | North Somerset Council |
| Social work statement number in the proceedings, e.g. 1st, 2nd (**N.B**. Do not use this template for initial statements) |  |
| Social work statement number of this witness, including position statements and initial statements e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and date of statement |  |
| This author/witness’s name, qualifications and office address |  |
| This author/witness’s Social Work England registration number |  |
| I have been the allocated social worker for [insert name(s)] since [date(s)] |  |

**The facts in this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the opinions set out are my own.**

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Signed:

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Date of completion:

***LEGAL: once the report has been completed, ensure that you update the page numbers on the table by clicking on anywhere on the table contents. The “update table” tab will appear on the top left (just outside this box). Click ‘Update Table’ and select “update page numbers only” (this should be the default) and the table will automatically update.***

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## **Child/ren’s details**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*Include any updates arising since the last statement or court hearing, the details set out in previous statements do not need repeating.*

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| **CHILD 1**  **CHILD 2**  **CHILD 3** |

## **The social work chronology**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*Record significant changes or events arising since the last statement was filed here.*

|  |
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| **2.1 Update relating to Mother** |

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| **2.2 Update relating to Father** |

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***Legal will delete this guidance note:***Delete 2.3 if not applicable.

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| **2.3 Update relating to Significant Other** |

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## **Analysis of risk and protective factors**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*This will provide the Court with a clear explanation of your concerns and help evidence threshold.* *Relate the risks which you consider exist to the harm or potential harm to the child.*

|  |
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| **3.1 Identified risks posed to the child** |

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| --- |
| **3.2 Identified protective factors for the child** |

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| **3.3 Analysis** |

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## **Child impact analysis and child/ren’s views**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*Consider each child individually. Set out any additional evidence and analysis plus any updates to the child’/rens previously expressed views.*

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| --- |
| **CHILD 1**  **CHILD 2**  **CHILD 3** |

## **Analysis of parenting capability**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*Set out the final assessment of parenting capacity, including a brief summary of any assessments completed since the initial hearing, state how contact / family time has informed this view etc.*

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| **5.1 Mother** |

|  |
| --- |
| PARENTING CAPACITY  EXPERT ASSESSMENTS  SUPPORT OFFERED  CYCLE OF CHANGE  ANALYSIS |

|  |
| --- |
| **5.2 Father** |

|  |
| --- |
| PARENTING CAPACITY  EXPERT ASSESSMENTS  SUPPORT OFFERED  CYCLE OF CHANGE  ANALYSIS |

## **Analysis of wider family and friends’ capability**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*Set out any additonal evidence and analysis of assessments or work with the child/ren’s family and friends network during the course of proceedings.*

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| *For any positive assessments, you should provide more detail and any updating evidence.* |
| |  | | --- | | **6.1 Family Members Assessed** |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Full Names** | **D.o.B** | **Relationship to child** | **Outcome (Positive/Negative/Further Assessment Required)** | **Court bundle reference(s) and Date of Assessment.** | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | | **6.2 Family Members Not Assessed** |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Full Names** | **D.o.B** | **Relationship to child** | **Reason** | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | | **6.3 Summary Analysis of Positive Assessments** | |
|  |

## **Orders sought and the proposed s.31A care plan – the ‘realistic options’ analysis**

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| --- |
| **7.1 PROPOSED CARE ARRANGEMENT AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK** |

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| --- |
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| **7.2 ANALYSIS OF REALISTIC LONG TERM CARE OPTIONS** |

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

A separate balance sheet needs to be completed in all cases where it is recommended that the child should not remain in the parent’s long-term care. *In this situation, please ensure that you complete a separate balance sheet rather than the table below.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Child** | **First realistic option: Child to remain in the care of [Mother/Father]** | |
| **Factors in favour** | **Factors against** |
|  |  |  |
| **Available Support** | | |
|  | | |

**7.3         Family time/ the plan for contact**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Child** | **Who contact is with and relationship to the child** | **Frequency and duration** | **Level of support/ supervision required** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Rationale for the level of contact proposed** |
|  |

## **The range of views of parties and significant others**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*Final position/s, where information has already been provided to the court in previous statements this can be summarised rather than repeating it in full here. Where these differ from earlier statements this should be recorded here too. Ensure the view of the IRO (where applicable) is included.*

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## **Welfare Checklists**

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*The Children Act welfare checklist – to be completed in every case.*

*Complete the checklist with reference to each child.*

Children Act 1989, s.1(3) (a) – (g):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a) | The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children concerned (considered in the light of their age and understanding); |
|  | |
| b) | Their physical, emotional and educational needs; |
|  | |
| c) | The likely effect on them of any change in his/her/their circumstances; |
|  | |
| d) | Their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant; |
|  | |
| e) | Any harm which they have suffered or are at risk of suffering; |
|  | |
| f) | How capable each of 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; |
|  | |
| g) | The range of powers available to the court under this Act (Children Act 1989) in the proceedings in question. |
|  | |

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

*Adoption and Children Act welfare checklist – only to be to be completed where the plan is adoption.*

*Complete the checklist with reference to each child.*

Adoption and Children Act 2002, s.1 (4) (a) – (f):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a) | the child’s ascertainable wishes and feelings regarding the decision (considered in the light of the child’s age and understanding); |
|  | |
| b) | the child’s particular needs; |
|  | |
| c) | the likely effect on the child (throughout theirlife) of having ceased to be a member of the original family and become an adopted person; |
|  | |
| d) | the child’s age, sex, background and any of the child’s characteristics which the court or agency considers relevant; |
|  | |
| e) | any harm (within the meaning of the Children Act 1989 (c. 41)) which the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering; |
|  | |
| f) | 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:   1. the likelihood of any such relationship continuing and the value of the child of its doing so, 2. 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, 3. the wishes and feelings of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, regarding the child. |
|  | |

## **Statement of procedural fairness**

*Steps taken to ensure procedural fairness since the last statement was filed.*

***Legal will delete this guidance note:***

* *Confirm here that the local authority’s concerns and the contents of this statement have been communicated to the child/ren, mother, father, and significant others, and state how this has been communicated.*
* *Have these concerns been clearly understood? If not, please be explicit about attempts to engage parties and any help that has been provided to them to participate in the process. This may include access to legal advice and representation, translators, advocates etc.*

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**Legal Team will delete all guidance before submitting to court**

**and will update the table of contents.**