**Case number:**

**IN THE FAMILY COURT AT BRISTOL**

**IN THE MATTER OF (*Name of child/ren*) (D.O.B. *of child/ren*)**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 25 OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1989**

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**STATEMENT OF (*YOUR NAME*)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

My name is *(Your name)*. I am a Social Worker employed by North Somerset District Council. My professional address is *(Your professional address).*

I make this statement from my reading of Social Services Department files and from my own personal knowledge. I declare that the contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that it will be placed before the court and read by the parties to these proceedings.

This statement is confidential and must not be disclosed without the consent of the court.

1. Qualifications and Experience
   1. I am a qualified social worker and currently work for [local authority] in the [team]. I qualified as a social worker in [month and year] and was employed by [local authority] in [month and year].
   2. Also list any previous relevant experience here
2. STATEMENT
   1. This social work statement is prepared in support of the local authority’s application for a Secure Order in respect of [child] under section 25 of the Children Act 1989.
   2. Throughout this statement, I will explore the following:
      1. Background information
      2. Current concerns which have led to the local authority’s application
      3. Views and recommendations of others
      4. Conclusions, recommendations, and desired outcomes
3. Family Composition

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Relationship** | **Name** | **Date of Birth** | **Address** |
| [Child] |  |  |  |
| Mother |  |  |  |
| Father [clarify with or without PR] |  |  |  |
| Siblings |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

1. CHRONOLOGY This section should include a chronology of events dating back as far as reasonable for the court to understand the concerns and how the child got to a situation where a secure accommodation was order was necessary. It should include any previous proceedings and orders made. Include any placement moves, any significant events such as police involvement, missing episodes, any mental health difficulties etc.
2. CONCERNS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY A heading for each concern would be helpful. The below are suggestions and can be amended/deleted/added to.
   1. Criminal behaviour
   2. Involvement/exploitation with county lines
   3. Drug and/or alcohol
   4. Risk to others [this could be members of the public, friends, family etc]
   5. Missing episodes
   6. Mental health
3. VIEWS OF OTHERS
   1. Mother
   2. Father
   3. IRO
   4. Any other professional [police, health, education etc]
4. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED OUTCOMES
   1. I have had regard to the guidance provided by the Department of Health in respect of an application under Section 25.
   2. [Placement considerations should be included here. Ensure every option is discussed why the LA have discounted options. What searches have been made and when. What offers have been made or why placements have rejected the child etc]
   3. [Include here any work the LA intend to complete with the child while they’re in placement]
   4. It is the view of the local authority that work in respect of [the child]’s emotional health and wellbeing is imperative and that in order for this to be achieved, [the child] requires a period of containment where [the child] feels safe to enable them to de-escalate and overcome this extended period of crisis and distress. At the present time, [the child’ in unable to engage meaningfully in the therapeutic input that [he/she] requires from the professionals around [him/her]. [The child] is engaging in extreme risk-taking behaviour within the community which will only stop when [the child] is in an environment where those influences are removed. It is also recognised that the risks [the child] poses to themselves and/or others, are likely to increase until [the child] is able to stabilise and regulate [his/her] emotions and behaviours to such a place where [the child] can return to the community.
   5. Recommendation
      1. The local authority’s plan for [the child] is that [his/her] immediate safety (both physical and emotional) needs to be promoted through a provision of a period of time in a secure accommodation in which [the child] is contained so that [his/her] safety is ensured. The Local Authority are therefore requesting a [X month] secure order be granted in order to provide [the child] the opportunity to stabilise, overcome this period of crisis and to enable continued multi agency support planning whilst [the child] is physically safe from significant harm.
      2. The Local Authority recognise that the secure order is a permissive order and the Local Authority recommend that [the child]’s presentation is closely monitored and that ongoing input/review from all professionals involved with [the child] is required in order to fluidly assess [the child]’s care and support needs as [he/she] de-escalates and overcomes this current crisis period. In the event that this happens within a [X-month] period, the Local Authority would be committed to ensuring [the child]’s time spent in secure provision is as limited as possible and as soon as [he/she] is safe to be transitioned into the community that this will occur.
      3. The Local Authority also recommends that an appropriate exit placement is identified as soon as is practically possible in order to ensure a structured transition plan is created to promote the success of [the child]’s safe return to the community.

Signed:………………………………..

Dated:…………………………………