

Children's Services Local Authority Section 37 Report

Version

Approved by **Fiona**

Wraith

Date: 25/10/2024

About this document

Title

Purpose

Updated by

Approved by **Fiona Wraith**

Date

Version number

Status **Final**

Review frequency **24 months**

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Local authority Section 37 report

Date of application:

Court:

Court case number:

Application type:

Hearing type:

Hearing date:

Social worker:

Date report completed:

Filing date:

*Guidance notes in blue and red are provided here to assist the author, this text should however be removed before submitting the template to the court. This document is intended to summarise **not** duplicate other documentation contained within the court bundle [if available] and should be succinct, with clear links or references to other sources of more detailed information e.g. an expert report or parenting assessment.*

WARNING: This report is restricted by rules of court. Unauthorised communication of the information in it is a serious matter and may constitute contempt of court

NOTE: Significant factual errors (not matters disputed by the parties) in this report should be referred to the author. Any concerns about other aspects of the report (for example, the extent of enquiries, the opinions expressed in it or matters disputed by the parties) must be addressed in court

1. FAMILY PROFILE

1.1. Child(ren) subject of the application

Name of child	Gender	Date of birth	Age	Ethnicity

1.2. Child/ren's family network

- *Include family members and any other people the child/ren have significant relationships with, such as close family friends. Who is important to them?*

Full Name	Relationship	PR	DOB	Ethnicity	Address (where safe to disclose)

NB. Insert genogram

1. 3. Key agency involvement

Key agencies involved	(Give brief details of SCS and other agency involvement plus any outcomes)

2. SUMMARY OF APPLICATION AND THE MAIN ISSUES

Use numbered paragraphs (2.1, 2.2, 2.3).

- *Start with child – name, age, and current arrangements: who they live with and when they spend time with a non-resident parent.*
- *Summarise in clear, straight forward language the key issues and what the parents are seeking.*
- *State the application(s) before the court and what the court has asked you to do.*
- *If previous proceedings, list the main points and outcome.*

3. ENQUIRIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THIS REPORT

Using numbered paragraphs (3.1, 3.2, 3.3).

- *List all the documents you have read in preparation for writing the report.*
- *List the meetings, appointments and phone conversations you have had with the child/ren, parents, family members and professionals/ agencies.*
- *Refer to the CAFCASS Schedule 2/ safeguarding letter detailing the safeguarding checks completed for these proceedings. Include any additional safeguarding checks undertaken.*

- Provide a summary of any social services involvement with the family.
- Provide a summary of key and relevant information arising from interviews with parents/ carers and professionals/agencies and any observations conducted. Use quotation marks if using the child's or parent's own words. **Analysis arising from any meetings with the child and family should be contained in sections five and six below.**

4. THE RELEVANT CHRONOLOGY

Date	Incident or sequence of incidents relevant to the child's protection and/or welfare (last two years)	Outcome	Source (agreed or disputed)

5. CHILD IMPACT ANALYSIS

Using numbered paragraphs, consider each child separately with their own analysis (5.1, 5.2, 5.3).

- In considering the impact upon the child you will need to reference relevant welfare considerations that relate to the child using these headings:
 - The wishes and feelings of the child concerned, including the weight to be attributed to them in the context of the issues in the case.
 - The child's particular physical, emotional and educational needs
 - The likely effect on the child if circumstances changed as a result of the court's decision.
 - The child's age, background and any other characteristics which will be relevant to the court's decision.
 - Any harm the child has suffered or may be at risk of suffering.
- Consider analysis of the **impact** for each child of:
 - Any evidence-based risk and strengths identified.
 - Their exposure to the current level of dispute between the parents, and their resilience and vulnerability.
 - The nature and quality of the child's relationships

6. PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

Using numbered paragraphs (6.1, 6.2, 6.3), provide an evaluation of the evidence regarding:

- How capable each of the child's parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting the child's needs.
- Your opinion as to how the child's safety and well-being can best be promoted.
- **The reasons for the decision not to apply for an Order, which must consider whether or not the threshold for care proceedings is met.**
- **Section 37 reports must be overseen by the Service Manager.**
- **If the decision is to go into PLO or issue proceedings, then a Legal Gateway Meeting should be held within 5 days of the decision being made. For those Section 37 reports where we are not recommending PLO or Legal procedures, the Service Manager will share their analysis with the allocated Legal Advisor before the report is filed.**
- **The details of any service or assistance provided or which it is intended to provide for the child and the family.**
- **Any other action taken or which it is proposed to take with respect to the child.**
- **Whether it would be appropriate to review the case at a later date and, if so, the date on which the review is to begin (s37(6) Children Act 1989).**

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Using numbered paragraphs (7.1, 7.2, 7.3).

- *Without repeating analysis elsewhere, provide short clear recommendations as to the future arrangements for the child/ren.*
- *Include any identified need for post proceedings support, and any agreed future actions by one or both parents.*
- *If the recommendation is that there will be no further Surrey Childrens Services involvement, inform the court and parties that intervention by the Department for the family will be ended, and that if further work or attendance at court is directed, then for the order to be served on the Local Authority, without delay.*
- *Consider how the child will be informed of the outcome.*

In compiling this report, I have had regard in particular to the welfare checklist as required by Rule 16.20/16.33 Family Procedure Rules 2010 and I have applied a welfare checklist analysis to the facts of the case throughout.

Signed:

Name:

Role:

Date: