

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

Names	Gender	Date of Birth	Child's current placement status	Child's current legal status
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

Local Authority and Social Worker details	
Case number	[]
Filed by [local authority]	[]
Social work statement number in the proceedings, e.g. 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd	[]
Social work statement number for this witness e.g. 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd	[]
This author/witness's name, qualifications, experience, and office address	[]

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.

This author/witness's HCPC registration number	[]
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1. Case details

Include any updates.

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2. The social work chronology

Update since the last statement was filed.

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.

[]

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 additional 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. Cut and paste the table from the SWET into this section if the care plan has been significantly updated or if it has been fundamentally changed.

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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

Print full name

Role/position held

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

11. The welfare checklist in full for reference

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:

- (a) The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children 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 change 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 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.

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):

- (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 his life) 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:
 - i) the likelihood of any such relationship continuing and the value of the child of its doing so,
 - ii) 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,
 - iii) the wishes and feelings of any of the child's relatives, or of any such person, regarding the child.