

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 31 CHILDREN ACT 1989 AND IN THE
MATTER OF RYAN DUNMORE (DOB 1.6.2015) AND FREYA STEPHEN
(DOB 12.10.2020)

BETWEEN:	CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	<u>Applicant</u>
	AND	
	SAMANTHA STEPHEN	<u>1st Respondent</u>
	AND	
	PAUL STEPHEN	<u>2nd Respondent</u>
	AND	
	RYAN DUNMORE AND FREYA STEPHEN [By their Children's Guardian]	

INTERIM THRESHOLD

This is an interim position, based on the information available to date. The Local Authority reserves the right to amend this position in light of any further relevant evidence received.

At the date when protective measures were put into place “the relevant date” the children **are suffering and are likely to suffer** significant harm attributable to the parental care being given to them, not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give (Section 31 Children Act 1989).

The relevant date is 07.06.2023, when the Police exercised their powers of protection and the Local Authority placed Ryan and Freya in the care of their paternal Grandmother.

The nature of the harm **being suffered and likely to be suffered** is **emotional**. The Local Authority asserts the following facts in support of the above contention:

Emotional Harm and Likelihood of emotional harm

1. On 30.03.2023 Samantha Stephen and Paul Stephen were arrested for conspiracy to commit murder following the murder of Ryan's Father and paternal Grandfather on 29th March 2023.
2. On 07.06.2023 Samantha Stephen and Paul Stephen were again arrested for conspiracy to commit the murder of Ryan's Father and paternal Grandfather.
3. Ryan and Freya are likely to have been exposed to the planning of the murder and the acrimony in the relationship between Samantha and Paul Stephen and Ryan's Father, the deceased, causing significant emotional harm.
4. Ryan and Freya were both present at the time of the arrest of Samantha Stephen and Paul Stephen on 30.03.2023 and again on 07.06.2023 and have been removed by police on both occasions likely to cause them fear through the resulting instability.
5. Both children have been exposed to criminal activity by Samantha Stephen and Paul Stephen which has a negative impact on them emotionally.

In light of the above the local authority contends that there are reasonable grounds to believe the threshold is met.

Dated 08 June 2023

Pathfinder Legal Services

on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council