**Gloucestershire County Council**

**Section 20 Agreement**

**This agreement is an agreement for the local authority to look after my/our children**

I agree for my/our child/children:

1. *[add full name and D.O.B for each child]*

2.

3.

4.

to be looked after by Gloucestershire County Council.

**I/we have parental responsibility for the child/ren and understand that I/we will retain full legal parental responsibility for the child/children.**

1. **Mother with parental responsibility for……..**
2. **Father with parental responsibility for……**

It has been explained to me/us that a section 20 agreement involves me/us agreeing that my/our child/children will be placed in foster care (and that this may be with a relative or connected person who will be assessed as a foster carer) or residential care.

It has been explained to me/us that I/we have the following rights:

1. To say no to this proposal \*
2. To change my/our mind at a later date and bring this agreement to an end at any time.
3. To obtain legal advice about this agreement.
4. For the agreement to be kept under review and to be considered by an independent reviewing officer who will be allocated to the child/children at each “Child in Care Review”.
5. To know where my/our child will be living and who he/she/they will be living with.

**While my/our child/children is/are accommodated by Gloucestershire County Council I/we understand that the carer (s) will have day to day responsibility for my/our child/ren and that I/we will be consulted about major decisions in relation to the child/ren. However, in an emergency** and if I/we cannot be contacted, I/we consent to urgent medical treatment being undertaken if this has been advised by a medical professional.

**Ending/Reviewing this Agreement**

At the moment I/we agree to my/our child/children being accommodated by Gloucestershire County Council until *[add the date agreed or the event agreed].*

Gloucestershire County Council agrees to review this agreement with me/us on *[add date*]and at the first Child in Care Review concerning my/our child/children which will need to take place on or before *[add date]*.

But I/we understand that I/we can change my/our minds about this agreement at any time and ask for my/our child/children to be returned to my/our care.

**I have read this agreement and I agree to its terms**

**Mother’s signature ……………………………… Date……………………………**

**Mother’s name……………………………………**

**Father’s signature ……………………………… Date……………………………**

**Father’s name…………………………………….**

**Social worker’s signature……………………… Date……………………………**

**Social worker’s name……………………………**

**(on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council).**

**By signing this consent the Social Worker confirms the following:**

1. A Head of Service for Gloucestershire County Council has agreed that s20 accommodation is appropriate for this child.
2. That they have ascertained the wishes and feelings of the child to be accommodated (where the child has appropriate levels of understanding).
3. That they are satisfied that the parent signing this document has the capacity to do so.
4. That having that capacity, the consent is informed consent, considering:
5. The parent fully understands the consequences of giving such a consent
6. The parent fully appreciates the range of choice available and the consequences of refusal as well as giving consent
7. The parent is in possession of all the facts and issues material to the issue of giving consent.
8. The social worker considers that it is necessary and proportionate for the child to be removed into S20 accommodation which may include foster care, placement with a connected person or residential and should have considered particularly:
9. That current physical and psychological state of the parents
10. If they have a solicitor, whether they have been encouraged to seek legal advice/advice from family and friends
11. Whether it is necessary for the safety of the child for him/her to be removed at this time
12. Whether it would it be fairer in this case for this matter to be the subject of a court order rather than an agreement?

And that considering all of these matters, they consider the voluntary accommodation of the child is necessary (the social worker should record analysis of these matters on the child’s file).

1. If the parent/s is/are not fluent in English, this written document has been translated into the parent’s own language and the parent/s should sign the foreign language text, adding, in the parent’s language, words to the effect that ‘I have read this document and I agree to its terms’.

\* If the young person is 16 or 17 years old, they do not need the consent of those with parental responsibility in order to be accommodated by the local authority.