**CASE NO: [Enter Case Number]**

**DATE:**

**IN THE FAMILY COURT SITTING AT BRISTOL (fill in appropriate court)**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE CHILDREN ACT 1989**

**AND IN THE MATTER OF insert FULL NAME (dob) of each child**

**REPORT TO THE COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 CHILDREN ACT 1989**

**BETWEEN:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **[Enter Applicant’s Full Name]** | **Applicant** |
| **- and -** |  |
| **[Enter Respondent’s Full Name]** | **1st Respondent** |
| **SECTION 7 REPORT PREPARED ON BEHALF OF SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** | **[Enter Your Name]** |
| **Address:** | **[Enter Your Office Address]** |

**This report has been prepared for the court and should be treated as confidential. It must not be shown nor its contents revealed to anyone other than a party or a legal adviser to such a party.**

**Qualifications and Experience:**

I am currently employed as a Social Worker in the {insert team} for South Gloucestershire Council, Department for Children, Adults and Health, Council Offices, Badminton Road, Yate South Gloucestershire, BS37 5AF.

I am the Social Worker allocated to this family since [date]. I qualified as a Social Worker  
in [year] having obtained [qualification] from [institution from where qualification  
gained]. I have been employed as a Social Worker by South Gloucestershire Council since [date] and I am authorised to write this report on their behalf.

**1. PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COURT:**

This report is prepared pursuant to the Order of the Court dated [date].

Fill in what the application is for eg: application for a Child Arrangements Order made by ‘x’ requesting that ……….

**2. MATTERS AT ISSUE:**

|  |
| --- |
| The court directed that the Section 7 Report consider the following issues:  List what the court orders is requesting the report covers |

**3. FAMILY COMPOSITION AND CHILD(REN)’S CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** | **DOB:** | **Relationship:** | **Address: (**NB: consider if there are any issues where address of any party / child is confidential eg: domestic abuse |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

The child/ren currently reside with:

**4. ENQUIRIES**

For the purpose of preparing this report I have made the following interviews and enquiries:

I have read the statements and court papers that were forwarded to me, namely:

* Xxxx
* Xxxx
* Xxxxx

I have undertaken statutory checks as follows:

state what checks you have completed.

**5. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL SERVICES’ RECORDS**

|  |
| --- |
| *History of court proceedings (if any). A brief history of the relationship between the parties. The history of Children’s Services involvement and other Agency interventions where relevant. Existing arrangements for residence and contact. Significant other people. Relevant issues such as domestic violence, child abduction, disruption during contact, allegations of abuse, health, education, criminal conviction details etc.* |

**6. APPLICANT – [Applicant’s Name]**

|  |
| --- |
| *A brief summary of the applicant’s current circumstances/relationships and views on the application. Context of the dispute (as it affects the children and of the steps taken during the enquiry to help reduce and manage conflict/tensions). Attitude to and reason for application/opposition Attitude to children’s needs/wishes if not covered in the Welfare Checklist. Proposals and specific concerns/allegations with any evidence. Use of assessment tools (e.g. parenting plan) if appropriate. Response to other party’s allegations if a matter at issue.* |

**7. RESPONDENT – [Respondent’s Name]**

|  |
| --- |
| *A brief summary of the respondent’s current circumstances/relationships and views on the application. Context of the dispute (as it affects the children and of the steps taken during the enquiry to help reduce and manage conflict/tensions). Attitude to and reason for application/opposition Attitude to children’s needs/wishes if not covered in the Welfare Checklist.*  *Proposals and specific concerns/allegations with any evidence. Use of assessment tools (e.g. parenting plan) if appropriate. Response to other party’s allegations if a matter at issue.* |

**8. CHILDREN**

|  |
| --- |
| *Description of the family relationships and attachments. Observations of children and relationships with parents. Information about the child’s domestic situation, schooling, ethnicity, religion, language, disabilities and any special needs.*  *Use of assessment / age appropriate tools / methods to obtain information from the children.* |

**9. WELFARE CHECKLIST***Each section to include an evaluation. Each child to be dealt with separately, with section  
referring to sibling group (if appropriate).*

**a) The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the children concerned:**

|  |
| --- |
| *To include what child says/expresses and your interpretation of what is said. Are the expressed wishes rational and proportionate? The Welfare Checklist requires that the child’s ascertainable rather than expressed wishes and feelings be considered.* |

**b) Their physical, emotional and educational needs:**

|  |
| --- |
| *Include information from Health Visitor, GP, Psychologist, school and any other professional involved with the child.* |

**c) The likely effect of any change of circumstances:**

|  |
| --- |
| *Include the effect of any change in any contact arrangement.* |

**d) Their age, sex, background and any characteristics which the Court considers  
relevant:**

|  |
| --- |
| *Assessment of needs of each child in relation to these criteria, to include how it affects, potential arrangements.* |

**e) Any harm which they have suffered or are at risk of suffering:**

|  |
| --- |
| *Any additional information from Social Care Services/NSPCC/any other agency, including schools, which relates to harm Include details of any action taken to minimise risk Include the consequences of domestic violence Include assessment of any emotional abuse the child may suffer as a result of parental conflict/behaviour.* |

**f) How capable are each of the parents at meeting their needs:**

|  |
| --- |
| *Your assessment of capability of each parent and any other persons in the light of allegations and counter-allegations Take into account own observations and those other professionals.* |

**g) The Court’s powers:**

|  |
| --- |
| *State what orders and directions the Court can consider making in this case*  The court can make a Child Arrangements Order  The court can make No Order |

**10. ASSESSMENT & ANALYSIS**

|  |
| --- |
| *Your analysis should be logical and based on the information contained within the Section 7 Report. By reference to the items on the welfare checklist, form a summary assessment, which would best meet the child’s needs. Where relevant, reference should be made to the acceptance or otherwise of expert advice, with the reasons for departing from any expert recommendation clearly explained. Avoid speculation and base your analysis upon evidence and matters you believe can be proven. Outline options including pros and cons. State if any agreement reached is in the child(ren)’s best interests. If significant risk to a child has been identified, include comment or action proposed and/or taken.* |

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

|  |
| --- |
| *It is your responsibility to make a recommendation to the court. You should comment upon whether or not it is appropriate to make no order (under the ‘no order principle’). If an order is appropriate, what should the order be for. This should cover every live application and those orders not applied for but which you consider to be in the child’s best interests.* |

**NOTE: Delete red prompts in boxes above and the note below after completion**

*Where a Family Assistance Order is recommended, set out what work you propose to  
be carried out, confirm the persons to be named in the Order and if their agreement is  
given.  
Identify if, in the interests of the child, the court should consider making a direction  
under Section 91(14) of the Children Act i.e. an order prohibiting any further  
applications in respect of the child without the permission of the court.  
Identify any necessary further work involved, e.g. further welfare  
services involvement or not.  
If significant risk to a child has been identified, include comment on action proposed  
and/or taken.  
It is essential that you are aware of the powers of the court.*

I write this report believing the contents to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief and knowing that it may be placed before the Court.

Signed …………………………………………..

Date:…………….  
**[Enter Your Name]**, **Social Worker**