

**ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

PLACEMENT ORDER REVOCATIONS

General Notes

- The procedure for the revocation of a Placement Order is governed by the Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- The Child or the Local Authority can make the application to revoke.
- Others such as parents / persons with Parental Responsibility need leave from the Court and may only apply if the child has **not already** been placed.
- If there is also a Care Order this is reactivated if the Placement Order is revoked.
- If the Court revokes the Placement Order and decides the Child should not remain with the Adopters they must return the Child to the Local Authority within a time determined by the Court.
- If the Court has determined a Child should be returned to their parents then the Local Authority must return the Child within the timescales set by the Court.

Process

1. The recommendation to revoke the Placement Order is made to the LAC Review and endorsed by Agency Decision Maker. To make the decision to revoke the Order the Agency Decision Maker needs a copy of the minutes from the aforementioned LAC Review, a summary report exploring the Family Finding undertaken and a copy of the Child's most recent Care Plan.
2. The Social Worker to arrange and hold a Legal Planning Meeting with previously allocated Solicitor or newly allocated Solicitor. This meeting will provide legal advice in relation to the threshold for the discharge of the Care Order, alongside the evidence provided within the assessment. Additional required paperwork and timescales for court will be agreed.
3. The Social Worker should provide the Solicitor with a Chronology, Statement and Care Plan prior to the Legal Planning Meeting (see guidance below). Further

documentation, if any, and timescales to issue the application agreed at the Legal Planning Meeting.

3.1 Chronology

- 3.1.1 Full historical chronology i.e. file the previous Court Chronology and an updated Chronology from the date the Care Order was made.
- 3.1.2 Needs to be succinct and contain relevant information for the application being made.
- 3.1.3 Should be completed on PLO 3 Template.
- 3.1.4 A good Chronology will provide a clear overview of the significant dates and events in the child's life. It should be short (no more than four pages) and cross-referenced to other documents to avoid duplication.

3.2 Statement

There are some example Statements in the Good Practice folder at [..\..\Cared For Children Services\Good Practice](#)

- 3.2.1 Introduction – who are you and what is your involvement in the case
- 3.2.2 What application are you making and why are you making it at this time. State that you have reference to the Welfare Checklist throughout
- 3.2.3 Family composition / genogram – use PLO 1 and PLO 2 Template
- 3.2.4 Summarise the child's background
- 3.2.5 Provide information on the Current Situation, including current placement and whether it is a long-term placement or whether a further move of placement will be required. Describe how the placement is meeting the child's needs
- 3.2.6 Cross-reference to the Care Plan for information regarding health, education etc. Do not duplicate – the Court do not want to read things twice
- 3.2.7 Provide full information regarding Contact, with all relevant family members

- 3.2.8 Provide information / views from the child, family members, other professionals and the IRO
- 3.2.9 Provide a holistic analysis of why you are making this application and why it is in the child's best interests. If there has been a delay, accept this and provide reasons
- 3.2.10 Explore possible alternatives to the recommendations, including those ruled in or out
- 3.2.11 Invite the Court to make the proposed Order
- 3.2.12 The Statement should provide a clear and logical narrative, based on factual events and circumstances. If you write an opinion, say it's an opinion and back it up with evidence. You need to provide the essential evidence that will inform the Court to make the Order
- 3.2.13 As part of good practice and to assist the Court, pages and paragraphs should be numbered

3.3 Final Care Plan

- 3.3.1 Use the ICS template for the Care Plan structure

- 4. Legal Services will make the application.
- 5. Further directions from the Court will dictate matters until the conclusion of proceedings.
- 6. Following the conclusion of proceedings, all parties are to be informed of the change of circumstances, if any, and ICS updated. Final plans agreed to be implemented.

Nick Whitbread

Principal Social Worker

13th October 2014