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| In the family court sitting at |
| In the matter of the Children Act 1989 |

**Local authority
social work evidence template**

**(Final statement)**

* **The child/ren** use one template per family

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| **Names** | **Gender** | **Date of birth** | **Child’s current placement status** | **Child’s current legal status** |
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| **Local Authority and Social Worker details** |
| Court case number |  |
| Filed by [local authority] |  |
| Social work statement number in the proceedings, e.g. 1st, 2nd (**N.B**. Do not use this template for initial statements) |  |
| Social work statement number of this witness, including position statements and initial statements e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and date of statement |  |
| This author/witness’s name, qualifications and office address |  |
| This author/witness’s Social Work England registration number |  |
| I have been the allocated social worker for [insert name(s)] since [date(s)] |  |

**The facts in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and the opinions set out are my own.**

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Signed:

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Date of completion:

**Please ensure that you update the page numbers on the table by clicking on the table followed by the “update” tab, selecting “update page numbers only” once the statement is completed. DELETE ALL RED FROM FINAL VERSION**

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## **Child/ren’s details**

Include any updates arising since the last statement or court hearing, the former details of proceedings do not need repeating.

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## **The social work chronology**

Record significant changes or events arising since the last statement was filed here.

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## **Analysis of risk and protective factors**

Final position.

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## **Child impact analysis and child/ren’s views**

Set out any additional evidence and analysis plus any updates to the child’/rens previously expressed views.

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## **Analysis of parenting capability**

Set out the final assessment of parenting capacity, including a brief summary of any assessments completed since the initial hearing, state how contact / family time has informed this view etc.

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## **Analysis of wider family and friends capability**

Set out any additonal evidence and analysis of assessments or work with the child/ren’s family and friends network during the course of proceedings.

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## **The proposed S31A care plan – the ‘realistic options’ analysis**

Final position/s where different from earlier statements provided to the courts. If the options and care plan have significantly changed for the child/renren since the initial statement, it may also be helpful to include an updated options table from the full SWET (6.1) here.

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## **The range of views of parties and significant others**

Final position/s, where information has already been provided to the court in previous statements this can be summarised rather than repeating it in full here. Where these differ from earlier statements this should be recorded here too. Ensure the view of the IRO (where applicable) is included.

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## **Statement of procedural fairness**

Steps taken to ensure procedural fairness since the last statement was filed.

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| ***Guidance to be overwritten/deleted****:* * *Confirm here that the local authority’s concerns and the contents of this statement have been communicated to the child/ren, mother, father, and significant others, and state how this has been communicated.*
* *Have these concerns been clearly understood? If not, please be explicit about attempts to engage parties and any help that has been provided to them to participate in the process. This may include access to legal advice and representation, translators, advocates etc.*
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## **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:

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| a) | The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child/children concerned (considered in the light of his/her/their age and understanding); |
| b) | Their physical, emotional and educational needs; |
| c) | The likely effect on them of any change in his/her/their circumstances; |
| d) | Their age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers/theirs which the court considers relevant; |
| e) | Any harm which they have suffered or 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):

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| 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 their 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:1. the likelihood of any such relationship continuing and the value of the child of its doing so,
2. 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,
3. the wishes and feelings of any of the child’s relatives, or of any such person, regarding the child.
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