

CASE NO: [Enter Case Number]

IN THE [ENTER COURT NAME] FAMILY COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE 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

[ENTER LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]

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. Such legal adviser may make use of the report in connection with an application for Public Funding.

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 [ENTER LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME] since [date].

This report is prepared pursuant to the Order of the Court dated [date]. The report was filed and served on the parties on [date].

1.0 NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS

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2.0 MATTERS AT ISSUE:

The court directed that the Section 7 Report considered the following issues:

3.0 FAMILY COMPOSITION AND CHILD(REN)'S CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE:

Name	DOB	Relationship	Address	Ethnicity

The children currently reside with:
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4.0 ENQUIRIES

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

Date	Nature of Enquiry

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

Name of Document	Document Date

I have undertaken statutory checks as follows:

Statutory Checks Undertaken

5.0 RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM SOCIAL SERVICES' RECORDS

Number your paragraphs starting with 5.1.

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.

6.0 APPLICANT – [Applicant's Name]

Number your paragraphs starting with 6.1,

A brief summary of each of the parties' 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.

7.0 RESPONDENT – [Respondent's Name]

Number your paragraphs starting with 7.1,

A brief summary of each of the parties' 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.

8.0 CHILDREN

Number your paragraphs starting with 8.1.

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.

Whereabouts of interested parties in relation to the children.

9.0 WELFARE CHECKLIST

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

9.1 The ascertainable wishes and feelings of the children concerned:

Number your paragraphs starting with 9.1.1.

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.

9.2 Their physical, emotional and educational needs:

Number your paragraphs starting with 9.2.1

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

9.3 The likely effect of any change of circumstances

Number your paragraphs starting with 9.3.1

Include change in any contact arrangement.

9.4 Their age, sex, background and any characteristics which the Court considers relevant:

Number your paragraphs starting with 9.4.1.

Professional assessment of needs of child in relation to these criteria as it affects, potential arrangements.

9.5 Any harm which they have suffered or are at risk of suffering

Number your paragraphs, starting with 9.5.1.

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.

9.6 How capable are each of the parents at meeting their needs

Number your paragraphs starting with 9.6.1

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.

9.7 The Court's powers under the Act

Number your paragraphs starting with 9.7.1

State what orders and directions the Court can consider making in this case.

10.0 ASSESSMENT

Number your paragraphs starting with 10.1.

Comment upon whether parties can manage their own proposed arrangements.

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.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Number your paragraphs starting with 11.1.

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.

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. reviews by the court, 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 and knowing that it may be placed before the Court.

Signed

Date:.....

[Enter Your Name], Social Worker

The Custody Minefield Family Law App provides [court forms](#), explains the role of [mediation](#), explains the [legal process](#), provides [case law libraries](#), and includes guides for parents and the wider family on [crisis situations](#). **Click on the image to go straight to our family law app.**



Section 7 Guidance written in association with [MAAPP](#), the Multi-Agency Application for the social work profession.