

Appendix 2: Matters to be dealt with in a Report for the Court

1. Information about the child

In respect of the child —

- (a) name, sex, date and place of birth and address;
- (b) a photograph and physical description;
- (c) nationality (and immigration status where appropriate);
- (d) racial origin and cultural and linguistic background;
- (e) religious persuasion (including details of baptism, confirmation or equivalent ceremonies);
- (f) details of any siblings including their dates of birth;
- (g) the extent of the child's contact with the child's relatives and any other person the Department considers relevant;
- (h) whether the child is or has been looked after by the Department or is or has been provided with accommodation by a voluntary organisation and details (including dates) of placements by the Department or organisation;
- (i) whether the prospective special guardian is an official foster parent of the child;
- (j) a description of the child's —
 - (i) personality;
 - (ii) social development; and
 - (iii) emotional and behavioural development, and any related needs;
- (k) details of the child's interests, likes and dislikes;
- (l) a health history and a description of the state of the child's health which shall include any treatment the child is receiving;
- (m) names, addresses and types of nurseries or schools attended with dates;
- (n) the child's educational attainments;
- (o) details of any order made by a court with respect to the child under the Act including —
 - (i) the name of the court;
 - (ii) the order made; and
 - (iii) the date on which the order was made.

2. Information about the Child's Family

In respect of the child's family —

- (a) name, date and place of birth and address (and the date on which their last address was confirmed) of each parent of the child and the child's siblings under the age of 18;
- (b) a photograph, if available, and physical description of each parent;
- (c) nationality (and immigration status where appropriate) of each parent;
- (d) racial origin and cultural and linguistic background of each parent;
- (e) whether the child's parents were married to each other at the time of the child's birth or have subsequently married and whether they are divorced or separated;
- (f) where the child's parents have been previously married or formed a civil partnership, the date of the marriage or civil partnership;
- (g) where the child's parents are not married, whether the father has parental responsibility and, if so, how it was acquired;

- (h) if the identity or whereabouts of the father are not known, the information about him that has been ascertained and from whom, and the steps that have been taken to establish paternity;
- (i) the past and present relationship of the child's parents;
- (j) where available, the following information in respect of each parent—
 - (i) health history, including details of any serious physical or mental illness, any hereditary disease or disorder or disability;
 - (ii) religious persuasion;
 - (iii) educational history;
 - (iv) employment history;
 - (v) personality and interests;
- (k) in respect of the child's siblings under the age of 18 —
 - (i) the person with whom the sibling is living;
 - (ii) whether the sibling is looked after by the Department or provided with accommodation by a voluntary organisation; and
 - (iii) details of any court order made with respect to the sibling under the Act, including the name of the court, the order made and the date on which the order was made.

3. Wishes and feelings of the child and others

In respect of the wishes and feelings of the child and others —

- (a) an assessment of the child's wishes and feelings (considered in light of the child's age and understanding) regarding —
 - (i) special guardianship;
 - (ii) the child's religious and cultural upbringing; and
 - (iii) contact with the child's relatives and any other person the Department considers relevant,
 and the date on which the child's wishes and feelings were last ascertained.
- (b) the wishes and feelings of each parent regarding —
 - (i) special guardianship;
 - (ii) the child's religious and cultural upbringing; and
 - (iii) contact with the child,
 and the date on which the wishes and feelings of each parent were last ascertained; and
- (c) the wishes and feelings of any of the child's relatives, or any other person the Department considers relevant regarding the child and the dates on which those wishes and feelings were last ascertained.

4. Information about prospective special guardian

In respect of the prospective special guardian or, where two or more persons are jointly prospective special guardians, each of them —

- (a) name, date and place of birth and address;
- (b) a photograph and physical description;
- (c) nationality (and immigration status where appropriate);
- (d) racial origin and cultural and linguistic background;
- (e) if the prospective special guardian is —
 - (i) married, the date and place of marriage;
 - (ii) has formed a civil partnership, the date and place of registration of the civil partnership; or
 - (iii) has a partner, details of that relationship;

- (f) details of any previous marriage, civil partnership, or relationship;
- (g) where the prospective special guardians wish to apply jointly, the nature of their relationship and an assessment of the stability of that relationship;
- (h) if the prospective special guardian is a member of a couple and is applying alone for a special guardianship order, the reasons for this;
- (i) whether the prospective special guardian is a relative of the child;
- (j) prospective special guardian's relationship with the child;
- (k) a health history of the prospective special guardian including details of any serious physical or mental illness, any hereditary disease or disorder or disability;
- (l) a description of how the prospective special guardian relates to adults and children;
- (m) previous experience of caring for children;
- (n) parenting capacity, to include an assessment of the prospective special guardian's ability and suitability to bring up the child;
- (o) where there have been any past assessments as a prospective adopter, foster parent or special guardian, relevant details as appropriate;
- (p) details of income and expenditure;
- (q) information about the prospective special guardian's home and the neighbourhood in which the prospective special guardian lives;
- (r) details of other members of the household and details of any children of the prospective special guardian even if not resident in the household;
- (s) details of the parents and any siblings of the prospective special guardian, with their ages or ages at death;
- (t) the following information —
 - (i) religious persuasion;
 - (ii) educational history;
 - (iii) employment history; and
 - (iv) personality and interests;
- (u) details of any previous family court proceedings in which the prospective special guardian has been involved (which have not been referred to elsewhere in this report);
- (v) a report of each of the interviews with the three persons nominated by the prospective special guardian to provide personal references for him;
- (w) whether the prospective special guardian is willing to follow any wishes of the child or the child's parents in respect of the child's religious and cultural upbringing;
- (x) the views of other members of the prospective special guardian's household and wider family in relation to the proposed special guardianship order;
- (y) an assessment of the child's current and future relationship with the family of the prospective special guardian;
- (z) reasons for applying for a special guardianship order and extent of understanding of the nature and effect of special guardianship and whether the prospective special guardian has discussed special guardianship with the child;
- (aa) any hopes and expectations the prospective special guardian has for the child's future; and
- (bb) the prospective special guardian's wishes and feelings in relation to contact between the child and the child's relatives or any other person the Department considers relevant.

5. Departmental involvement

In respect of the Department —

- (a) details of any past involvement of the Department with the prospective special guardian, including any past preparation for that person to be an official foster parent or adoptive parent or special guardian;
- (b) a summary of any special guardianship support services provided by the Department for the prospective special guardian, the child or the child's parent and the period for which those services are to be provided; and
- (c) if the Department has decided not to provide special guardianship support services, the reasons why.

6. Medical information

A summary prepared by the medical professional who provided the information referred to in paragraphs 1(l) and 4(k).

7. Implications

The implications of the making of a special guardianship order for —

- (a) the child;
- (b) the child's parent;
- (c) the prospective special guardian and the prospective special guardian's family; and
- (d) any other person the Department considers relevant.

8. Alternative disposals

The relative merits of special guardianship and other orders which may be made under the Act with an assessment of whether the child's long term interests would be best met by a special guardianship order.

9. Recommendations

A recommendation as to —

- (a) whether or not the special guardianship order sought should be made in respect of the child and, if not, any alternative proposal in respect of the child; and
- (b) what arrangements there should be for contact between the child and the child's relatives or any person the Department considers relevant.