

Witness statement template

Child arrangements - Parental dispute

Please complete this statement to the best of your ability.

The information that you supply will assist the Judge in having an understanding of the background to the current case and will assist the Judge in coming to a decision. If any of the questions are not relevant to your case or if you are unable to answer any particular question please say so on the form.

The family court sitting at
Case number
Name of applicant
Name of respondent

Each parent's responses to this statement will be disclosed to the other parent or party.

The name of the parent, or other party, completing this form:

--

Please give the full names and dates of birth for each child and indicate with whom they live

Child's full name	Date of birth	With whom the child lives										
	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>											<input type="checkbox"/> me <input type="checkbox"/> other parent <input type="checkbox"/> other person
	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>											<input type="checkbox"/> me <input type="checkbox"/> other parent <input type="checkbox"/> other person
	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>											<input type="checkbox"/> me <input type="checkbox"/> other parent <input type="checkbox"/> other person
	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>											<input type="checkbox"/> me <input type="checkbox"/> other parent <input type="checkbox"/> other person
	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>											<input type="checkbox"/> me <input type="checkbox"/> other parent <input type="checkbox"/> other person

1. Do any of the children have any medical problems? Yes No

If Yes, please give details

--

2. Did you and the other parent (or other party) live together? Yes No

If Yes, please give the

approximate date when you started to live together

date of separation

3. Please give brief details of the circumstances of the separation

4. Please describe the childcare arrangements in place between you and the other parent or party before the proceedings were issued? When and how often did the other parent or party spend time with the child?

5. Please give a brief description of the child(ren)'s routine during the week and at weekends. Please also advise how each parent or other party has been involved with such routines. Also give details of other family members who help or are available to help.

6. If you are in work, what are your working hours? If a child lives with you, who looks after the child when you are at work?

7. Please describe the homes in which the child lives, stays or spends time. State whether it is a flat, maisonette or a house; wits size (i.e. how many bedrooms?) and the sleeping arrangements for the child (if they currently stay)?

8. How far away do you live from the other parent or party?

9. How long does the journey take by public transport or car?

10. Please state how far away the child(ren)'s school is from your home and how the child(ren) get to and from school.

11. Please describe the child(ren)'s out of school activities, their hobbies and pastimes.

12. Please describe each child's personality, likes and dislikes and any particular needs they may have.

13. Are there any concerns or issues about the child(ren)'s schooling? Yes No

If Yes please give details.

14. Please give your view as to the quality of children's past and current relationship with the other parent or party. Do you think that this needs to be improved, and if so, how can the court help you as parents to do that?

15. Please describe how the child(ren) are coping with the separation of their parents and the current issues between you and the other parent or party.

16. What childcare and parenting arrangements are you asking the court to implement. Who do you say the child/children should live with? How much time should the child/children spend with the other parent or party or anyone else? Please give your reasons for the arrangements you want.

17. Do you have any worries about the other parent's parenting abilities? Yes No

If Yes, what are they?

18. Have you or the children ever been involved with social services or the police?

Yes No

If Yes, when?

Do you know which Local Authority was involved or have any contact details?

Please give brief details of why and what happened?

19. What steps have you taken to reach agreement with the other parent or party about the arrangements for the children? What is preventing you being able to reach an agreement with the other parent or party in respect of the arrangements for the children? (do not include here the content of discussions held in mediation sessions)

20. What do you feel **you** can do to help the court in making a parenting order that will satisfy both parents (or other party) and the children's welfare?

21. Please give the Court details of any other information that you consider relevant to the case.

Statement of truth

I believe the that the facts stated in response to the above questions are true.

Signed (mother/father)

Dated

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--