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| **Our Ref**: | Phone:  Fax: | TEL: 02 XXXX XXXX  FAX: 02 XXXX XXXX |

Dear

**YOUR CHILDREN'S COURT MATTER**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Born on:** |
|  | **Born on:** |

I am writing to you about your Establishment Hearing in the Children’s Court at on .

This Hearing was about whether was in need of care and protection when was removed from your care.

**What Happened In Court**

Before your matter was in Court, I asked you to sign some written instructions to confirm you understood that the Court might make negative comments about your parenting if you proceeded with your Hearing. You signed these instructions a copy is **enclosed**.

Your matter was listed before . appeared for Community Services, appeared for , and appeared as the Independent Legal Representative (“ILR”) for . (The ILR represents the children’s best interests). I appeared on your behalf on a duty basis.

I told the Magistrate you agreed to the matter being established on a without admissions basis.

Each party told the Court why they thought that in need of care and protection at the time was removed.

**The Decision**

Magistrate gave Judgment and decided:

1. At the time was removed, was in need of care and protection;
2. The Magistrate said had made this decision because of concerns about your ;
3. The Interim Order for Community Services to have parental responsibility of will continue until further Order.

The Magistrate also made the following directions:

1. Community Services must file their Care Plan for by ;
2. You can file an affidavit (your evidence) about what you think about the Care Plan by ;
3. Your matter is adjourned to  **for mention**. **You need to attend Court on this occasion.**

I have **enclosed** the original Court Orders made for on for your records.

On the next Court date, the Court will want to know what you and the other parties think of the Care Plans.

**What is a Care Plan?**

A Care Plan tells the Court what Community Services thinks the long term arrangements for the children should be. This includes who they think should make decisions for the children, where they think the children should live, who they should have contact with and how much contact the children will have with people including yourself. We will get the chance to tell the Court whether we agree or disagree with the Care Plan.

Once I receive the Care Plan I will send you a copy and I will organise an appointment so that we can talk about what it says.

**Your Response**

If you want to tell the Court your side of the story then we will need to file an Affidavit. Once I have received the Care Plan, I will arrange an appointment for you to attend my office to work on your response.

**What Should You Do Now?**

You should make sure you keep doing the following:

* Keep working with Community Services;

Please contact me on (02) if you have any questions about this letter or about your matter generally.

Yours sincerely

Solicitor

Encl.