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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 refer to the above matter and to your attendance at Children’s Court on

**What I Told You**

Before we went into Court I was able to talk to you about what was going to happen.

I explained that the next step is for the Court to make a “finding” about whether or not

 was in need of care and protection at the time Community Services took into care.

I explained to you that a finding was not the end of the matter, but it had to happen before the Court could consider long term arrangements for including whether can return to live with you.

I told you that it was likely that the Magistrate would agree that Community Services did the right thing by removing because of the following things:

I explained that you could agree or disagree that Community Services did the right thing. I also explained that you could agree but say that you didn’t agree with everything that Community Services had said about you (this is called ‘without admissions’).

You told me that you wanted me to tell the Magistrate that you agreed to the matter being established on a ‘without admissions basis’.

**Court Outcome**

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.

 made the following orders:

1. That Community Services did the right thing by removing the children;
2. Community Services are to file Care Plans by and any updated Affidavit information;
3. You are to file your Affidavit by ;
4. Your matter is next listed on for further mention. **You must attend Court on this date.**

**What is a Care Plan?**

A Care Plan is a document filed in the Court by Community Services which sets out Community Services long term plan for the [CHILD/REN].

The Care Plan will set out whether Community Services think the [CHILD/REN] can come home or not and if they can’t come home, where Community Services thinks they should live, who should make decisions for them and how much contact they should have with the important people in their lives.

Once the Care Plan is prepared, everyone gets to say whether they agree with it or not. If there is no agreement, the matter can get listed for a hearing and the Magistrate will decide whether the children can go home or not.

**What is the Next Step?**

I have made an appointment for you to meet with me as follows:

**Date:**

**Time:**

**Location:**

 It is very important that you attend this appointment so that we can prepare your affidavit. If you don’t attend this appointment the Court might not hear your side of the story.

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

Yours sincerely

**Solicitor**