|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Our Ref:**  | Phone: Fax:  |

**By Email:**

Dear

**Your Children's Court matter**

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

Your matter is back in on at. **You must attend Court on this date**.

This letter is about your attendance at on . Your matter was in Court because Community Services had removed from your care.

This was the first time your matter was in Court. I helped you on a duty basis.

**What You Told Me**

Before your matter was called into Court we talked about the application filed by Community Services. You told me:

*

**What I Told You**

I told you that Community Services were going to ask the Court to decide who should have parental responsibility for while the Court proceedings are happening.

I explained to you that ‘parental responsibility’ is about the decision making for . The person who has parental responsibility makes the medical and educational decisions for , as well as deciding where should live and who will have contact with.

I advised you that when deciding who should make the decisions for **,** the Court must look at whether it is in the best interests of the safety, welfare and wellbeing of to live with you.

I explained to you that I thought that the Court would decide that you should not make decisions for at the moment. I explained that I thought that the Court would decide that Community Services should make the decisions for for now.

You instructed me that you would not oppose Community Services making the decisions for for now but you did this ‘without admissions’. ‘Without admissions’ means that you don’t agree with everything that Community Services have said about you and/or

**What Happened in Court**

Your matter was listed before Magistrate . appeared for Community Services, appeared for , and

 appeared as the Independent Legal Representative “ILR” for

 (The ILR represents the best interests). I appeared on your behalf on a duty basis.

I told the Court that, without admissions, you did not oppose the Court making an Interim Order for Community Services to make decisions about care.

**Alternative:**

I told the Court that you agreed to the Court making an Interim Order for Community Services to make decisions about care.

**Alternative:**

I told the Court that, without admissions, you did not oppose the Court making an Interim Order for Community Services to make decisions about care until the next time the matter comes back to Court.

**Alternative:**

I told the Court that you did not agree to Community Services having parental responsibility for and that you want to have parental responsibility.

Magistrate made the following directions/orders:

1.
2.

**What Happens Next**

It is important that you continue to work with your Community Services caseworker. I suggest you start doing the following:

1.
2.
* EXAMPLE Work with Community Services and do what they ask of you. Speak to them as soon as possible about having contact and ask them what they would like you to do.
* EXAMPLE Make an appointment with your GP to and discuss whether you would benefit from seeing a psychologist.
* EXAMPLE: Enrol in parenting courses including, *Circle of Security*.

I have enclosed a brochure titled “*Kids in Care: Going to the Children’s Court*” for you to read.

You will receive the Summary of the Proposed Plan for by

 . This is a document filed by Community Services which tells the Court what Community Services thinks should happen for care while your matter is in Court. This document also tells the Court if Community Services are planning to return to your care.

**Your Application for Legal Aid**

At Court, you told me that you want to represent you with the rest of your matter.

I will now send your completed legal aid application to Legal Aid’s Grants Department to allocate to .

OR

I gave you a legal aid application to complete before going to see .

OR

I confirm you completed a legal aid application while at Court, and a solicitor from our office will now be allocated your matter. This solicitor will contact you to speak with you in more detail about the next stage of the proceedings.

If you have questions about your matter please feel free to contact on  .

Yours sincerely

**Solicitor**

Encl. Brochure “*Kids in Care: Going to the Children’s Court*”