



WARRINGTON  
Borough Council

If children's social care have serious worries about the safety of your child, they may decide that your child needs a pre-proceedings plan.



Family Court

Pre-proceedings is what happens before children's social care decide if they need to go to court.



You will get a letter explaining what pre-proceedings is and why children's social care are worried.

You will be asked to attend a meeting which will explain what the meeting is about, who will attend and when it will take place.



Solicitor

The pre proceedings letter will explain that you need to find a family law solicitor to represent you and give you some advice.

Your solicitor can come with you to the pre-proceedings meeting.



You will get Legal Aid. This means that you do not have to pay for your solicitor, it is **free**.

You should speak with your solicitor before the pre-proceedings meeting to talk to them about the things that you want to say in the meeting.



A Pre-proceedings meeting is very important. It is your final chance for you to show children's social care that you understand their worries and can make the changes that they recommend.



At the pre proceedings meeting you will be given an action plan.

This plan will tell you what jobs need to be done, who needs to do them and when they need to be done by.



Pre-proceedings can last up to 6 months. It could be shorter or longer than this.

This will depend on how well the plan is working.



Children's social care might still decide that they need to go to court.



Remember not all cases in pre-proceedings do go to court.