



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

Section 20 means that you voluntarily agree for your child to be placed in accommodation by children's social care.

A Section 20 can sometimes be called a voluntary accommodation agreement.



A Section 20 is voluntary. This means that it does not need to go to court for a judge to decide.



A Section 20 can only be used if you agree to this.



Solicitor

It is important that you have legal advice from a solicitor before you agree to a Section 20.

What does it mean?

Signing a section 20 means that you agree for your child to live with someone else temporarily.

This could be with another family member or a foster care placement.





A foster care placement might not be in your local area.

Sometime a parent might be asked if they want to go with their child into the foster care placement.



If you agree to a Section 20, you will need to sign a piece of paper from children's social care to show that you agree.



A Section 20 does not give children's social care parental responsibility.



You can stop a section 20 at any time. It is important you speak to a solicitor first.

If children's social care are worried that there is a risk of significant harm to your child, they might apply to the court for an order.



Significant harm means your child is at risk of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect.

Neglect means you find it hard to care for your child's health, home or to keep them safe.



When your child is placed under a Section 20, the social worker will write a care plan.

You will have a copy of this plan.



It should be written in the care plan when the Section 20 agreement will end.



The care plan should be written with your agreement.



This plan should be reviewed regularly by your child's social worker.



There is no time limit on how long a Section 20 is for.