

Local Authority Accommodation Fact Sheet

What is section 20 (s.20) Accommodation?

The local authority has a duty to provide appropriate accommodation to any child that requires such. This may be with a foster carer, or in certain cases, the local authority may approve a family member or family friend as a temporary foster carer.

Who can request or consent to section 20 (s.20) Accommodation?

Parents or someone who has Parental Responsibility can voluntarily place a child into local authority foster care. This occurs by way of a section 20 agreement that those holding parental responsibility are requested to sign.

What powers does a section 20 agreement give the Local Authority?

A section 20 agreement does not give the local authority parental responsibility for a child. However the local authority may ask that the parent signs certain consent forms that will delegate certain decisions to the local authority – for example decisions with regards to urgent medical treatment.

Can I terminate a section 20 agreement?

A parent/carer can request that a section 20 agreement is terminated with return of their child to their care immediately. You do not need to agree any specific timescales for this.

You should **always** seek legal advice prior to signing such an agreement.

Disclaimer: The material contained in this fact sheet is for general guidance only. It is specific to the law of England and Wales, and represents a brief outline of the law current as at the date of the fact sheet. It is not intended to constitute, or to be a substitute for, legal advice specific to your case.

Information up to date as at 10/3/23



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