

Local Authority Accommodation (Section 20)

It is possible for parents to 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.

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 of family friend as a temporary foster carer.

A section 20 agreement does not provide the local authority with 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.

A parent can request that a section 20 agreement is terminated with return of their child to their care immediately – the parent does not need agree to prescribed timescales.

It is advised that parents 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 13 May 2019.

Margate

Hawley Street
01843 234000

Birchington

Station Road
01843 842356

Broadstairs

High Street
01843 868861

Canterbury

Broad Street
01227 207000

Ramsgate

Queen Street
01843 595990

Email: family@boysandmaughan.co.uk
www.boysandmaughan.co.uk

