

EASY READ



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

What is a PLO (Public Law Outline)?



This document was written by University of
South Wales on behalf of the Welsh Government.

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Background

Social Services sometimes have concerns about how you care for your children.



If this happens the law says that they must work with you to make sure your children are safe.



The PLO (Public Law Outline) says how they should do this.

Social Services will send you a letter which should tell you 5 things.

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

1. The letter should say what concerns Social Services have about your children and how you care for them.



The letter should say what they are concerned about.



It should say what changes they want you to make.

2. The letter should invite you to a meeting



This meeting is called a 'pre-proceedings meeting'.



You should be given enough notice of the meeting to make sure you can prepare.

3. The letter should tell you how to get a solicitor



You should try to get a solicitor as soon as you can.

This is so that they can help you.



Make sure you get a solicitor who has experience of family law.



You might also want to ask if they have experience of supporting people with learning disabilities.



You should be able to get legal aid to pay for the solicitor.

4. The letter should tell you about any assessments that Social Services want to carry out.



This may involve an assessment of how you care for your children.



This is called a parenting assessment.

5. The letter should tell you how your family and friends can be involved.



Your family and friends may be able to help you to look after your children.



They might be able to support you to care for your children.

They might be able to look after your children.



It is important that Social Services know if this support is available.

The Meeting



The aim of the meeting is to put a plan in place to make sure that your children are safe.



At the meeting the concerns that Social Services have about your children will be discussed.



The plan should say what needs to change.



It should say what support will be provided.

It should also say when the changes need to be made by.



You might be asked to sign a written agreement about what needs to change.

Support during the PLO process

A solicitor can help you through this process.



You might also find it helpful to have the support of an independent advocate.



They can help you to understand what is happening and your rights.



The advocate can help you to think of questions you want to ask.

They can help you to say the things you want to say.

It is important to get an independent advocate as soon as possible.



If you are not offered an advocate ask how you can get one.

What happens after the meeting?



Social Services will check whether what was agreed in the plan is happening.



They will check whether any changes needed have been made.

After 6 – 8 weeks there will be a review.



If the changes have been made no further actions may be needed.



If there is some change (but not enough) Social Services may decide that a plan for more changes needs to be made.



If changes haven't been made and Social Services still have concerns then they may need to apply to the court and ask them to decide how your children should be cared for.



This would involve going to court.

Easy Read information is available about the court.