

## The controversial view of the children Act.

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The prevention of cruelty to and protection of Children Act 1889 appears to be the first in a long line of legislations designed to protect children. It was closely followed by the Children Act 1908 and the children and young persons act 1933. If we take into consideration that the government decided in 1889 that they needed to put something in place to stop the abuse of children, why have they not managed to do so yet? The Children Act 1989, written 100 years after the prevention of cruelty to and protection of Children Act 1889 is still pretty much based on the original text. Over 100 years and they still haven't cracked the problem. You think by now the government would work out the legislation doesn't work, and that it has been misused to destroy families for over 100 years.

The next thing that a parent finds quite interesting is the fact that all these acts of legislation were designed to protect children away from the family home. The original act was designed to protect children who were being looked after by another adult while the parent was working, or within workhouses to name but a few. They were designed in respect of children's homes, community homes, voluntary homes, voluntary organisations, foster placements, childminders, day care centres, and adoptive placements. When you look at any of these acts of legislation the majority of the legislation covers the organisations and homes I've just mentioned. Which makes me wonder why no parents from normal households regarding this act are being treated fairly. Whilst the atrocities towards children within children's homes, community homes, voluntary organisations, foster placements etc seemed to be brushed under the carpet. Let's not forget the number of reviews, sorry government reviews, independent reviews that have stated time and time again that the system is broken and needs to be amended. Alongside, the news reports over serious breaches within these organisations.

So, let's have a look at the children's act in a little bit of detail from a parent's point of view. The court is designed to determine any questions in relation to the upbringing of the child and what will happen with the child's property or income from that property. Well, the welfare of the child is the primary consideration. Somewhere in this legislation it also states,

as it has in pretty much every previous legislation, the child's well-being is not only paramount but that wherever possible these children should be living at home and by that, I mean with their parents or family not in a local authority system.

The legislation goes on to say the any questions in relation to upbringing of the child should be done quickly as delays can affect the welfare of the child. Dragging a child through care proceedings is going to cause instability. Emotionally, mentally, and socially because whether the government like it or not, or the local authority want to admit it or not, there is an enormous amount of stigma that goes with having a social worker in your life.

Unless of course there is evidence to the contrary it is stated that both parents should have some involvement with the child to further the child's welfare. Yep, I agree with that one. Unless there is clear evidence to the contrary, not some crystal ball possibly, maybe, sometime in the future. And here we have another bugbear, the crystal ball method.

The crystal ball method is not a scientific term, it is not a local authority term, it is not a legal term. It is what parents call the crap that the local authority come out with when they talk about the possibility of a future risk of harm. Now, let's have a look at that original legislation again, the one that started the whole ball rolling and is still, in some parts, used as the foundation stone for every legislation that followed in respect to children. Now, before the introduction of the protection of cruelty to and protection of Children Act 1889, where the, what will be referred to from now on as the crystal ball method, was pretty much first introduced there was another act of legislation. The witchcraft act of 1735 stated it was illegal to predict the future. It was categorically illegal to predict the future or to insinuate you could predict the future. Wake up, people were tortured and killed, for saying they could predict the future. Ye shall not suffer a witch to live, can't remember where the saying comes from and hopefully the (you need to reference that) people will understand I remember the quote but not where I read it many, many years ago. Now the witchcraft act of 1735 continued to exist until the vagrancy act of 1824. However, the being illegal to predict the future was continued within the vagrancy act. The vagrancy act continued until the fraudulent medium act of 1951 where, it was still illegal to predict the future. As such when the protection of cruelty to and protection of Children Act 1889 came into effect it was illegal to say there was a risk or possible risk of future harm because it was in direct conflict with another active legislation. Now for those of you who think or may think stupidly, by the way, that the whole crystal ball methods/predicting the future would not have been in force when the Children Act 1989 came into effect you'd be wrong. The fraudulent medium act of 1951 was still legal legislation in 2008 when, the consumer protection from unfair trading regulations began. It wasn't until 2008 that the government dropped the illegality of predicting the future. However, I am sure that there could be another piece of legislation still in force legally in this country under a different name that would make the future predicting, crystal ball method illegal.

I did say this was going to be a controversial document, I did give plenty of warnings before anyone started to read this document. If you have got to this part of the document and are offended by what I have said so far, please, please shut this document down, delete this document and do not read any further. However, if you have got this far in this document and either find it's interesting or you've had the same kinds of thoughts, even if you didn't have all the extra information please continue reading.

Bearing everything that has already been said, let's get back to this document otherwise known as the children's act 1989. The court is supposed to take into consideration the wishes and feelings of the child depending upon their age and understanding, their emotional and physical and educational needs and how a change of circumstances can affect the child. I don't know many children who were going to turn round to a local authority and say yeah please take me away from my family, stick me with strangers, in an area I don't know, where I'm separated away from my siblings Oh yeah and I have to go to a different school. I do not know many children who are not going to suffer emotionally with being ripped away from their family home. So cut the rhetoric and stop saying it's in the best interest of the child unless of course, the child is at serious risk of harm and by that I actually mean serious risk of harm. Now there is also a section here where it says the court will decide what involvement the parents will then have with the child moving forward if they are removed from the child. There are cases where a child only gets to see their parents once a year, how is that in the best interest of the child?

Now we know categorically that the court is going to accept that the mother and by that, I mean the human body that gave birth to the child [after all I have to try to be politically correct] has parental responsibility for said child. I suppose for the court, social workers, local authority etc it would be extremely bloody difficult to say that a human body that has squeezed a baby out of a tiny little vagina does not have parental responsibility for the child. The father on the other hand [by that I mean the person who supplied the semen] doesn't automatically get parental rights. The father either has to have his name on a birth certificate to be acknowledged as having parental responsibility, a DNA test to prove that he is the biological father or and I may be wrong here, the mother agree that he is the biological father. How much extra stress needs to be put on a male? Is it not bad enough he's got to go through all the rest of this stress? And I just worked out that there will be certain people who are now going to complain about this document because of this whole I could be born biologically male but class myself as a female or I could be born biologically female but class myself as a male or I may say I'm gender neutral or I may decide that I'm gender fluid or I may be one of however many different categories that have now been put on sexuality. You can class yourself as whatever you want, I do not intend to cause offence however, it is easier for me to say male, female, mother, father. Identify however you want I'm not being transphobic I just don't want to get tongue tide. As much as it is difficult for fathers, it can be just as difficult for same sex couples, if not worse. My heart goes out to you all.

So, we get onto the appointment of guardians. The court can appoint a guardian for a child if a child has no parent with parental responsibility or if the person whom the child was living with died whilst the order was in force. This type of guardian is not to be confused with the guardian ad litem. They are two completely different things.

Welfare reports. Oh the joy of welfare reports, not.

You're probably going to end up having to endure through a welfare report and this is generally done by the local authority or someone similar and you going to get a copy of it after the stressful investigation is finished. Now this report can be given to the court verbally, in writing or both. And for anybody who has ever had to look at these welfare reports after months or years of social worker intervention you're going to notice a lot of cut and paste crap. More importantly, you are going to see a lot of conjecture, opinions of social workers. Which funnily enough goes against the BASW code of conduct. So where we thought we may have got over, or, there may have been a slight error in judgement on the whole crystal ball method we find that social workers and other professionals who are supposed to record accurate, factual information, write an opinion that is based on nothing but fantasy or unconscious bias, or personal experiences, or being overworked, or maybe just being in a mindset where they actually think the worst of every parent around them. As much as we feel sorry for these social workers, not really, we do get highly annoyed with cut and paste moo poo, second hand information from badly written reports by another social worker, or in some cases deliberate lies from teachers, so-called friends, family members, or our partners that we've happened to annoy or have experienced a bad break up with.

And then there's child arrangement orders and orders about where Childs going to live, visitation rights when you're actually going to get to see your own child. These are generally referred to by parents as private family cases which basically means there's no social workers involved. Is child going to live with parent A or payment B, if they live in with parent A when will they get to see parent B that type of stuff. Which again is supposed to be dealt with as quickly as possible but can drag out for a year or two. Thinking about it, it probably contains the same amount of moo poo as social worker reports because there always has to be a winner and there always has to be a loser, one parent or one party I should say is always going to give out as much detrimental information as possible and make it sound as bad as possible for the other party, so they get to win. Sorry if that's not what you want to hear, however it is life.

There are also things called prohibited steps orders and they are when you get told your child isn't allowed to see a certain person or isn't allowed to be around a certain person it is a step to stop you from doing something hence A prohibited step. It can be a step to stop you from going to a certain place, stop you moving to a certain area, luckily, so far I haven't

seen anything in court paperwork that prohibits you from wearing certain stuff and good job as there's a lot of people out there that would be annoyed if they were told they weren't allowed to wear jumpers or trainers for that matter. I'm not sure if it's classed as a prohibited step, but even foster carers can get told they can't do stuff without permission.

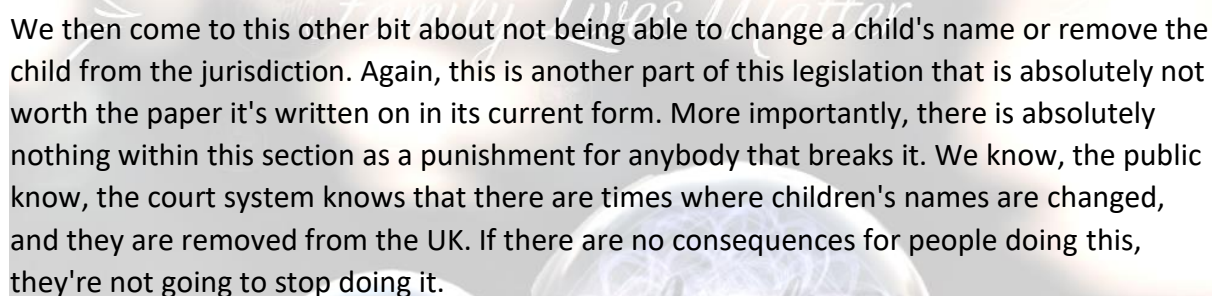
Activity directions, sounds fun, doesn't it? Breaking it down it's a direction to say you have to do an activity. Not a fun activity, you are not going to be directed to take your child trampolining or swimming, you are not going to be directed to do anything that you will get any enjoyment from. It should really be called an activity order because you are going to be ordered, ordered by a judge who does not know you to do something you do not want to do. This could be something like anger management, yes if you need anger management you will benefit from it in the long run, but it is probably not something you want to damn well do. You could be ordered to go to parenting classes, sounds educational and yes if you get to keep your child at the end of it there is a benefit to it but it's probably not fun. On the plus side and there has to be a plus side to this moo poo. I'm pretty sure by now everyone knows what moo poo stands for. Sorry I digress. As I was saying the court cannot force any individual to undergo medical, psychiatric type examinations, assessments or treatments. Thank everything that is good and light in this world for that. However, just because it says this in this piece of legislation does not mean I believe it.

Now there is some moo poo about monitoring contact and shared residency, and it is just that it is moo poo. How many parents have to go back to court because they have not been given their correct level of contact or the other parent has refused to share the residency the way it is outlined in court documents? If this section of this legislation worked even the tiniest little bit parents won't have to keep going back to court. And as much as they say there are warning notices and consequences for failing to comply with these orders, we all know nothing happens. Somebody goes against one of these orders where another parent is concerned, and nothing actually happens to the parent who isn't keeping with the court order. For those poor people, who have unfortunately had their children removed from them by the local authority which let's be honest most parents will call the SS which is short for social services. Although some give it a more sinister connotation we will stick with the short for social services. If social services, local authority whatever you want to call them do not stick to a court order over how often a parent gets to see their child again nothing is done (They will tell the parents the child doesn't want to see them, or contact has been cancelled / changed when it hasn't). The perpetrators get away with everything they want and the victims of the system gets screwed over time and time again.

Now where was I? Oh yeah warning notices. See, you can tell how much I love this legislation I can't even remember where I am on it. There are enforcement orders and there's warning orders, well if they do nothing all with the warnings are they actually going to do anything with enforcing stuff, I doubt it. Right, so according to the enforcement order and again like any piece of legislation you can read whatever you want into it. It kind of

dribbles on a bit. The part I actually picked up on was the fact that using a balance of probability the court can enforce the person in question to participate in an unpaid work requirement and there may also be a financial loss element depending on the circumstances. Now let me think..... so far we've worked out that at least one part of the legislations including the 1889 legislation have a premise in them, well maybe it's not exactly in them, (None of them say predict the future. They do say likely to suffer, which is basically asking for a prediction) but a premise that is used by the local authority under the guise of said legislation, otherwise known as crystal ball method is actually or was when legislation came out illegal and continued to remain illegal for quite a long time and it's not even as if this was just illegal for a couple of years is it? I mean it was illegal till 2008.

Now, I know I should not keep going back to this however, this is the way my brain works I seriously can't help it if legislation that was written, that has been used illegally OK that could be metaphorically illegally. Ok maybe I'm wrong, let me rethink. The court system was allowing local authorities to predict the future of thousands if not millions of children whilst there was a legislation in place that made predicting the future illegal so how am I or anyone else supposed to believe that enforcement orders will ever be put in place?



We then come to this other bit about not being able to change a child's name or remove the child from the jurisdiction. Again, this is another part of this legislation that is absolutely not worth the paper it's written on in its current form. More importantly, there is absolutely nothing within this section as a punishment for anybody that breaks it. We know, the public know, the court system knows that there are times where children's names are changed, and they are removed from the UK. If there are no consequences for people doing this, they're not going to stop doing it.

Special guardianship orders. You must be over the age of 18, you can't be the parent of the child and apply for yourself to be a special guardian although, I do know people who have tried. And there is a bit here that says it can be a family member. A family member can apply for special guardianship of your child to stop your child from going into a completely cracked, flawed system and in a really, really, tiny percentage of cases the child is placed with a family member under a special guardianship order. Now you look at this, and you think to yourself OK if the local authority are going to take my child off me; I really don't want my child living with a stranger I will ask a member of the family. Then, you must speak to said members of the family and see if any of them or willing to subject themselves to the absolute hell that is known as social services. Now I know there are still some people out there in society who believe that social services are doing all the right things and they would never take a child off a loving parent or that they don't make mistakes and they only ever see these really big cases in the newspapers where social services have failed and then they're like why social services aren't doing more. In everything that is holy, no matter what the religion is we hope that there is a family member willing to step in and keep our child within the family. However, once they start down that path of assessments of which there

are many and having their lives pulled to pieces and put under a microscope that let's be honest in many cases eventually either the family member decides it isn't worth it or they get turned down by the local authority who will cite something as a reason why they are not suitable.

Let's change subject because this is something that's just going to make my head explode, especially when I've worked out like many other parents who know the system that as soon as there's a news, media outcry over a child being killed or seriously hurt due to local authority failures there's a sudden increase in children being removed from families and either placed in foster care or worse still, put up for adoption. Let's get one thing as crystal clear as glass. The incidents, which are horrifying and devastating for the families involved are where social workers either get turned away at the door or they keep rescheduling visits. Not the families that work with the local authority and let them in the house.

Family assistance orders. Now here's a laugh for you if there ever was one and something that most people are not aware of. The court under the family assistance order gives the local authority the right to appoint someone generally a social worker to befriend any person named within that order. Now if the police do something in a criminal case to deliberately try to trick somebody it's generally classed as entrapment yet, when it comes to the local authority, they have people trained to do this through universities. I mean what type of training does it take to deliberately befriend somebody to gain their trust, so they think this person, who is a professional is going to help them keep hold of their child only to be stabbed in the back by them. And these family assistant order people, well whatever you want to call them, can stay in your life for up to a year and then they wonder why a lot of these parents that have been through the system and had their children removed end up with mental and emotional health problems or want to kill themselves. This surely, comes under coercive control, manipulation, corporate abuse???? No wonder no social worker admits their jobs when socialising outside of work.

A risk assessment is exactly what it says it's an assessment to see what sort of risk there is to a child or children and let's be honest a social worker is going to over play it, they're going to be dramatic, because I swear half of them have attended acting school or had some sort of acting as part of their university course and they can't stick to facts. As previously stated, they are supposed to keep to facts as per the BASW rules, but they don't.

OK so we are kind of going backwards and forwards in this legislation and I apologise for this. Different sections trigger different thoughts.

It is the general duty of every local authority to promote the welfare of the children and safeguard the children who are within their area. Now this sounds really good, we are going to promote the welfare of the children we are going to safeguard them, we are going to provide a range and level of services to help a family with the upbringing of a child. These services can be outsourced to voluntary organisations and charities and places like that, so you know they spreading the wealth around a little bit and this is supposed to be a good thing. If it worked the way it is supposed to work it would be a good thing if these social

workers were transparent it would be a good thing. Maybe as part of their training they had to read every piece of legislation going which is pretty much double talk and as such they do not know how to give somebody, like a normal parent, direction or information in an easy-to-understand format. This parent believes that social services could walk into any damn house in the whole of the UK and I do not care if it is the House of an elite or if it is the House of the poorest person in the country, I do not care what culture this would be, I do not care what religion this would be, they could walk into any damn house in this country and find an issue. There is no such thing as the perfect family, there is no such thing as the perfect parent, there is no such thing as a perfect Christmas or Easter or any of that crap we have been socially conditioned to believe we have to be perfect, and no-one is perfect. But again, I digress, so according to this part of the legislation and I'm trying to remember what part of legislation that was on. Oh yeah this is the part just before the part I was about to cover where it talks once again about you know the needs of the child being the absolute key and the wishes of the child having to be taken into consideration, that is their normal spiel. They like to pay lip service with certain keywords.

So, the family can be passed over to a voluntary organisation to do some work or a charity to do some work or they may be given a little bit of money to help them and of course, we have to talk about the monetary side of things as well. On the monetary side of things, the social services cannot claw back the money from the parents under certain circumstances like if they're on Universal Credit for example or if they are under any of the DWP benefits. Depending on what they are on depending on their earnings blah blah blah blah.

And for the purpose of this part of the legislation a child would be classed as being in need if the following criteria are met. Things like they are unlikely to achieve or maintain reasonable standards of health and development without the help from the services of the local authority, their health or development is, or maybe, or whatever impaired or further impaired without the provision of such services and of course if the child is classed as disabled. And for this section a child is classed as disabled if they happen to be deaf, or blind, or if they suffer from a mental disorder or if the poor soul can't speak, classed as being dumb. Furthermore, because of course like that isn't enough it can also include physical, emotional, intellectual, social or behaviour problems. Which goes back to what I was saying about they could walk into any house within the UK and find a problem. There is no such thing as a perfect child I would actually be more worried of if a child did not have certain behaviour problems, you know like arguments about what time they go to bed or what food they eat, never being able to find one of their shoes or asking where something is when it is right in front of them. It would raise a red flag with me if a child did absolutely everything they were told, ate everything put in front of them and went directly to bed etc when they were told to do it, without asking why questions or forgetting where something is.

Then we have young carers need and parent carers need assessments. A young carers needs assessment would happen where a person is under the age of 18 and they provide care or intend to provide care for another person, that could for argument sake be a sibling, a parent or grandparent, does it matter? they want to help or they need to help. The social



worker would come in and they will assess the situation and then, they can turn around and say to this young carer well I'm sorry you're not allowed to do that. Which could devastate that young carer and affect their emotional wellbeing of course there is also that clause that they're supposed to take into consideration, the wishes of the young person. The parent carer assessment is more for a person who is over the age of 18 who provides or intends to provide care for a disabled child for whom that person has parental responsibility and then that the social worker is trying to work out if the parent carer has the ability to look after that disabled child and if they decide that they are, they can put some help in place and if they decide they're not then they could take that child off them because then they can class it as neglect so yeah things can go well or bad on either one of these.

Of course, we talk about day care and preschool next. The legislation does state that every local authority has to provide day care for children in need that are in the area who are aged 5 and under and they're not yet attending school. So, what you are being told here is that as soon as you send your child to a pre-school they are on social services radar. I don't know how to read that any other way. Now of course depending on the whole situation coz these things can change, and it doesn't always have to be under 5 if you have a child in need, the local authority can provide extra facilities such as training advice, counselling, guidance, for those running the pre-school or accompanying such child. What!!, this section of the legislation really doesn't read very well. Yet social services can supply access to supervised after school clubs or school holiday clubs because they want to keep a really close on your children to make sure that they are clean, they are tidy, they are being fed and just waiting and encouraging that child to turn and say such and such hit me, I was told I wasn't allowed to do something, anything like that.

These provisions for day care and child minding are reviewed by the local authority. This legislation threw me for 6 because I thought these reviews would be yearly. Yet, on reading this section there's something about it starts as a yearly review, but then goes to every three years. Have the local authority no idea what can happen in three years? The results of these reviews are supposed to be published by the local authority. However, we know that they cover their own backsides and they're not about to say if serious concerns have been noted within these organisations. After all, if they were honest about these things it wouldn't have taken so long for the atrocities in places like Kin-Cora or Beech Holme to come to light.

Every local authority has to provide accommodation for children in need within their area who appear to require accommodation as a result of the following: the child does not have anyone who has parental responsibility for them, in other words anyone who's an orphan, the child has been lost or abandoned. Say a child runs away does that mean the social services are going to stick them into care? Probably not every child who runs away but I do not know how many etc. The person who has been caring for the child can no longer provide them with suitable accommodation or care. So, a family have been chucked out because they've got a slumlord who is put the rent up they haven't been able to pay it so they get chucked out on the streets and social services swoop in and remove your children for you from you because they don't give a how long you've been without suitable

accommodation or the reason that you're without suitable accommodation rather than getting the family into suitable accommodation they will remove the children. This does not always happen of course, because most people know that there are children living on the streets with no access to regular food, water or shelter. Would it be reasonable to question if the local authorities pick and choose what parts of the legislation to follow and in what circumstances?

If the local authority provide accommodation for child is not ordinarily resident in their area, basically belongs to another local authority the other local authority is responsible for said child. Now I'm going to try and make this a little clearer for people and I'm going to use Preston and Birmingham as examples. This is nothing against Preston and it's nothing against Birmingham. A child from Preston is housed in Birmingham however, the Preston local authority are still responsible for said child and as such it is a Preston social worker that has to go to Birmingham to check in on said child. This isn't too much of an issue if the gap between the two local authority areas isn't that big however if we then change that from Birmingham to Southend, the gap is a lot bigger and can anybody believe that a social worker from Preston is going to travel all the way to Southend just to check on a child that's still under their care because I don't believe so. This is why children fall through the gaps. This is why children in the local authority go missing. This is why children get screwed up and This is why children get hurt. Where a child in the circumstances mentioned above is moved for example from Preston in Lancashire to Southend this parent believes that the care of the child, the welfare checks for the child and the social worker for the child should be in Southend. The whole whichever local authority you were under when you were taken into care is the local authority that is going to continue your care till you leave the care system should stop.

On a slightly different topic, which is not part of the children's act, although extremely relevant to children within the care system. This parent also believes that every police force within the UK should know exactly where every care home, children's home, voluntary children's home, private foster placement, public or voluntary foster placement is. These buildings including the buildings that are used for deprivation of liberty should be automatically flagged on every police system in the UK. That way, if a child needs to reach out for help because they are being abused within that home, or building the police will automatically be aware that this is a child who is being looked after by the local authority. The police should also have a database, that covers any incident within any of these addresses. After all, the Children Act in all its guises and all of its forms over the years since 1889 have stated the welfare of the child is paramount and have all stated that they keep an eye on these children who are being looked after by the local authorities. It would be much easier to analyse the system and to see where the system is broken if information regarding missing children, absent from placement without authorization, domestic abuse, allegations of any other type of abuse including sexual could be broken down statistically to find percentage of cases connected to local authority care system.

Accommodation is also provided for those who are over the age of 16 but under the age of 21 who have been in a local care home or foster placement but what is this in-between team called?

I'm talking about 18 plus. 18 plus is the local authority team trying to pretty much get rid of the care leavers in the easiest way possible. Yes, they do provide them with accommodation but it's generally in dumps and by that, I mean houses that have bed bugs, where the facilities are absolutely disgusting and when they chuck these kids into these places, because there's no adult supervision, there is bullying, there is fighting, there is drugs, there is alcohol, there is theft and again these kids fall off the radar. Absolutely disgusting, this system is completely and utterly in need of re-working. According to the legislation, these placements are supposed to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young person. However, as with my issues above regarding the need of a police system that can analyse the issues within these placements. By that I mean any placement where a looked after child is being housed, this parent is also concerned with the number of looked after children, or care leavers, that for whatever reason end up being hooked on drugs, or alcohol. The lost children as I will call them who end up pushed into prostitution, living on the streets, child trafficked, used, abused and then basically chucked away by the very system that is supposed to protect them. Let's not forget, the number of these children that end up with mental/ emotional health problems, attempt suicide on multiple occasions or end up taking their own lives. These children who have had pretty much all ties with their original families severed. These local authorities that do not even keep statistical records of the number of children within their care that develop emotional/ mental health problems, try or actually manage to commit suicide, end up on the streets etc.

The local authority has a duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children within their care, within the system. These children are supposed to be cared for within these placements as if they were still within their own families, I need supposed to promote the child's education, emotional, physical and mental health. Through all of this the local authority is also supposed to ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child, the parents, any person who has parental responsibility and any other person who's wishes and feelings the authority considered to be relevant to the matters at hand. For the love of everything that is good and right in this world, somebody please explain to me why this doesn't happen. Somebody explained to me why once these children are within the local authority care system, a system that has been set up with legislation by our government they are left to be used and abused worse and for longer than they ever would have been within most of the family homes they were removed from all under the guise of the risk of possible future harm if left with the families. This pulls me straight back to the crystal ball method of trying to predict a future that may never happen. This pulls me back to a legislation that doesn't work, that has been twisted to fit an agenda and whose twisted agenda was illegal according to other acts of legislation and should still be illegal.

Going back to the legislation in question, in England a local authority must make advice and information available for the purpose of promoting the educational achievement of every

child within their area. I wonder what the statistics are for the number of looked after children who successfully go on to complete a university education.

It is also the duty of every local authority to ensure that children within their system are visited and made contact with. Again, these visits are undertaken by authorised persons they are trained to befriend the child or young person, to listen to the child or young person's concerns, to advise the young person and to promote their welfare. Sometimes I wonder if the local authorities, or the government take into consideration that children within the looked after care system do not in any way, shape, or form trust bloody social workers. Most of the time they don't even trust the foster carers or the staff within the children's homes. These children have learned to distrust everyone, if they try to raise a concern with their parents on a contact visit and that parent tries to raise a safeguarding alert the parents are generally ignored. All though the local authority, only shares parental responsibility with the parents the local authority treats the parents as if they less than human. It is a system where the belief system within those who have lost their children, he's one of we've got your kids you don't matter. There is also no statistics available to say how many parents of looked after children have either gone onto: develop emotional/ mental health problems, addiction problems, attempted suicide or have actually committed suicide. Once their children are in the system the parents are ignored, there is nothing and I mean nothing made available to these parents to cope with the loss of their children. However, these parents are surrounded by stigma, they can be ostracised by their families, they can be ostracised by friends and society as a whole. Many of them, lose their connexion within the area they live because they no longer have the socialisation, they had previously taking their children to inform school. I am well aware that the children's act has and always has covered the welfare of the children, there is nothing that covers the welfare of their parents and yet at some point if the parents are lucky their children will come and find them. More importantly, if this system worked so well why is it that when these care leavers end up being parents themselves the very fact that they were part of the care system is used against them to remove their children.

According to the legislation there is also a staying put arrangement. This is an arrangement made between the local authority and the foster carers to continue to allow the children to stay within the placement once they have left the care system. It is also the duty of the local authority to monitor any staying put arrangements, to provide assistance and support for the former child in care and for the former foster parent with a view to maintaining the state put arrangement this can also include financial help. Now, as much as I have been vocal in regard to the darker side of the system I will also admit that there are some very good foster placements out there. For the lucky few who are accommodated in a good foster placement I can see the point of the child wishing to remain with the foster placement. In other cases, these children cannot wait to be away from the foster placement and as such a staying put arrangements would never work.

On the plus side of course, there is a section within this legislation that applies to care leavers who are under the age of 25 and wish to continue educational training. This includes contributions to expenses incurred by them living near the place they will be receiving educational training and all making grants available to the care leaver to help them with educational expenses. These would seem to be part of pathway plans and pathway plans do cover other things as well with the understanding that if the child wishes to have extra help as per the pathway plan, they have to agree to keep in contact with the local authority. There is of course also advice and assistance available to care leavers and that again depends on the individual circumstances.

Now each local authority is supposed to establish a procedure for looking into representation including complaints made by a relevant child, I personally was qualified to give assistance and advice, I'm sure there are probably others. However, with everything else there is time limits on such representations. This parent believes, that when time limits are placed on a looked after child or a care leaver regarding when they can put in a complaint it will actually stop them from coming forward with complaints. A child who is terrified of the placement they are in no matter what type of placement it is come on who doesn't trust their social worker or any other adult they were class as being a professional and the system ignores the original family members how are these children or care leavers supposed to complain about the treatment they are receiving within a given time frame. It would appear to me and I am sure others that by putting a time limit on complaints or representation it sounds more like a local authority cover up.

Restriction of liberty. Now there is a lot of controversy surrounding a restriction of liberty and the wording here is a little suspect. Restriction of liberty would appear to be different wording for deprivation of liberty. And of course, there are many children who are deprived of their liberty in foster homes, care homes, boarding schools, children's homes etc and these children do have rights under the European Convention of human rights under Article 5 not to be deprived of their liberty without legal authorisation. However, deprivation of liberty safeguards only applies to people who are 18 and over. A deprivation of liberty is lawful if warranted under section 25 of the children's act 1989, which provides for placement of looked after children in secured accommodation, the Mental Health Act 1983, the youth remand provisions of the legal aid, sentencing and punishment of offenders Act 2012 or the custodial sentencing provisions of the power of criminal courts sentencing Act 2000. According to the children's act 1989, the local authority cannot place or keep a looked after child in secure accommodation unless the following apply: the child has a history of absconding and is likely to abscond from any other form of accommodation, if they do abscond they're likely to suffer significant harm, if they are kept in any other accommodation they are likely to injure themselves or others. Secure units, or accommodation can only be used for a specified period of time beyond which the local authority need to apply to the court to continue the accommodation and the court needs to approve of the continuance of accommodation. So pretty much what I gather from that is if a looked after child has made complaint after complaint about treatment within a foster

placement or other accommodation the local authority can basically stick them in a secure unit to shut them up. If a child has continuously ran away from abuse within local authority accommodation for fear of abuse, they can be stuck in a secure unit / accommodation to shut them up. Their liberty is restricted, and they are re-victimised by the system set up to protect them. Not forgetting that these children that are placed in secure units will never be able to have a normal life because just being placed in a secure unit will stay on their record and can stop them from getting many different types of jobs when they're older. Furthermore, no court can exercise the powers within this fiction in respect of a child's liberty being restricted without first informing the child of their legal right to representation and upon being given time to instruct legal assistance refuses or fails to apply for legal representation. I wonder how many of these children know their rights, or if they have been so traumatised that they have lost faith in the system and wouldn't trust legal representation even if they had it.

Appointment of independent reviewing officers. The local authority is supposed to appoint an individual as an independent reviewing officer for children's cases. The reviewing officer must be appointed before the child's case is first reviewed in accordance with regulations made under section 26. If a vacancy arises then the local authority needs to as soon as possible appoint another independent reviewing officer and an appointee must comply to the description prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State. In this legislation the Secretary of State comes up quite often which makes me wonder if the Secretary of State is actually overall in charge of children social services. The function of an independent reviewing officer is to monitor the performance of the local authority and their function in relation to child cases. They are supposed to ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child and if needed speak on the child's behalf. However, as a parent if the local authority is in charge of appointing an independent reviewing officer I would guess that the local authority all paying the independent reviewing officer and in which case is the independent reviewing officer actually independent. If as a parent, and an adult I can see a conflict of interest between an independent reviewing officer and the local authority seeing as how the local authority are to appoint an individual as an independent reviewing officer and I'll probably paying the wages of the independent reviewing officer surely, I clued up young person within the looked after child system would also see a conflict of interest and would not trust an independent reviewing officer. Wouldn't it be better if an independent reviewing officer was completely independent of the local authority and any of the voluntary, charities, organisations that work in partnership with the local authority. I'm also not surprised that there were so many conspiracy theories surrounding local authorities and other organisations after reading this legislation.

Advocacy services. Every local authority needs to make arrangements for the provision of assistance to any person or child who intends to make representation under either section 24D or under section 26 the assistance provided under the arrangement shall include assistance by way of representation. Now that sounds like double Dutch to me because

representation generally where the children's act or local authorities are concerned means legal representation and an advocacy services and advocacy service folks up and does that mean that as the local authority need to make arrangements for assistance/ advocacy service the again the advocacy service is not impartial? There are also some points regarding advocacy service that need to be inspected a little bit closer. The first of these is the fact that a person may not provide assistance if they are a person who is prevented from doing so by the Secretary of State regulations. It does not say what these regulations are. What prevents somebody from being an advocate? Is it down to the parent or the child to check if an advocate is prevented from being an advocate or is it down to the local authority to do due diligence? The second of these points is that the advocate needs to comply with the provisions in the regulations in relation to these arrangements again this seems to come down to a Secretary of State thing. Now if there is no way to find out what the provisions are in the regulations in regarding to these arrangements how can anybody be sure that an advocate is actually legally allowed to be an advocate? Again, is it down to the child or parent to try to investigate and find out or is it down to the local authority to do due diligence? Furthermore, does that mean that advocates are regulated and there is somebody overall in charge of advocates or people pertaining to be advocates so that if you have an issue with an advocate you can go to a regulatory body? So many questions arise from just that one little part of the children's act. Now it also says that the Secretary of State may make regulations requiring the local authority to monitor the steps that they have taken to ensure they comply with the regulations and that the local authority should make their arrangements public for provisions of assistance in this section as they deem appropriate. Again, I think this is another one of those sections that falls through the cracks and because the onus is on the local authority deeming it appropriate the chances are we're never going to find out.

Cooperation between authorities. Gotta love the wording on this thing in fact you gotta love the wording on the whole of the children's act 1989 which I am absolutely positive was designed to mess with the parents head and ensure that a layperson or normal person of the public has no idea what this legislation is all about. My interpretation of this section is that different local authorities need to work together where needed in respect to we don't want this child in our area can you take them in yours etc or this family is moved into your area they're no longer on our radar can you just nip round to their new address and say that you had an anonymous referral made just to poke your noses in. Maybe the cooperation between authorities is we need to remove this social worker from our area because there's too much of an uproar over them can we do a swap with one of yours? Truth be told I do not trust any local authority because they have proven themselves time and time again to be a bunch of untrustworthy individuals.

Anyone who is living in this day and age should be more than aware that local authorities will consult with local educational authorities and maybe that is part of this cooperation between authorities' section. It may not be written in this legislation or if it is it may be obscurely worded, but we are aware that schools work very closely and I mean very closely

with child social services. Some adults might even be aware that children social services, sorry local authorities are going to introduce a social worker into every school. This of course is not to monitor the school, it is not to prevent bullying within the school, it is to keep an eye on your kids.

The local authority or authorised people can apply to the court to make an order for either children to be supervised by the local authority or for children to be taken into the care of the local authority. The court can only make a supervision or care order if it is satisfied of the following: that the child concerned is or is likely to suffer significant harm, that the harm or likelihood of harm is attributable to the care given to the child or likely to be given to the child if an order was not made and not being what the court would reasonably expect a parent to give lastly that the child is beyond the parents control. No care or supervision order can be made with respect to a child who has reached the age of 16 years. Let's just break this down a little bit the court has to be satisfied that the child concerned is or is likely to suffer significant harm and that they are satisfied that the care given to the child is not what the court would reasonably expect a parent to give a child or that the child is out of the parents control. Again, with this significant harm, what constitutes significant? What constitutes what the court would reasonably expect a parent to give a child? I think a child being beyond the parents' control is quite clear. The rest is basically open to interpretation.

The court, when deciding upon a care order need to look at permanence provisions for the child. Can they live with one of their parents, a family member, a friend of the family etc before considering foster placements, care homes etc or adoption. We've already spoken previously regarding special guardianship orders and how they are not utilized to their full potential. However, we haven't spoken about the plan placed in front of a judge to show the impact on the child of any harm they have or are likely to suffer, the current and future needs of the child, including any needs that may arise from the impact of the harm they have or are likely to suffer, the impact of the removal from the family and how the long-term plans for the upbringing of the child will meet their current or future needs.

In case you haven't noticed, so far through the whole of the children's act 1989 it has spoken about the welfare of the child, what is in the best interests of the child, special guardianship orders, foster placements, care homes etc it's mentioned significant harm. What it hasn't mentioned so far is what the categories or subcategories of harm are. Now if I go back to the 1889 prevention of cruelty to, and protection of, children's act the categories and subcategories of harm were basically one of the first things you read. In fact, reading the prevention of cruelty to and protection of Children Act 1889 is 1000 times easier and clearer the reading the children's act 1989. Did the government or whoever writes legislation somewhere in the last 100 years lose sight of the fact that the general population of the country need to be able to understand the legislation without a cypher code? If we look at the Children Act 1908 again, the categories and subcategories of harm are one of the first things you read. I know that one if not both of the aforementioned children's acts talk about having to have a fire guard in front of an open fire to avoid a child getting burnt. I know that they talk about not taking children into public houses where alcohol is being



served at certain times of the day etc. I know they talk openly about not using a child as a way of begging for money on the street and child labour. They are quite clear and concise regarding different forms of child abuse, and I appreciate the examples I have just given may not apply to today's day and age. The point I'm trying to make is that by the time I'd got this far into reading two older acts of legislation regarding child safety I knew what child safety was for that time period. Yet, this far into reading the Children Act 1989 it still hasn't been mentioned to any degree or clarified.

Getting back to the care and supervision orders a court can decide upon application of a supervision order to grant a care order or on application of a care order the court can grant a supervision order. The children's act 1989 states that only an authorised person can apply for these orders. An authorised person is defined as The NSPCC and any of its officers and any person authorised by the Secretary of State to bring such proceedings, or any officer of a company which has been authorised. So, we can assume here that's a social worker working for child social services as part of the local authority is an authorised person. The NSPCC connexion to the children's act dates back to the 1889 act and came about after the death of a child by their foster parent.

And now we have at last a list of what would be classed as child abuse.

1. Harm, this is defined as all treatment, impairment of health and development. This includes any harm suffered as a result of seeing or hearing all treatment of another individual.
2. Development, defined as emotional, physical, intellectual, behavioural or social.
3. Health, defined as mental or physical.
4. Ill-treatment, defined as including sexual abuse and any form of ill-treatment that is not physical.

Significant harm is where a child's health or development is questioned and that is defined as being compared to what could be reasonably expected of a similar child.

That are 4 categories listed in the Children Act 1989. These seem to be very broad-spectrum definitions. The first category includes Being able to see or hear the ill treatment of another individual. This category is used to remove children from the victim of domestic abuse. The fact that the local authority could easily help the domestic abuse victim flee the abuse and possibly place the children into short term care whilst the victim recovers from the domestic abuse does not seem to enter the heads of either the local authority, the court system or the government. This is where I believe the American system is better than the British one because in America where a parent proves that they have changed their circumstances after a child has been removed from their care, they can get their children back and more importantly they appear to have short term foster placements. I do not mind being corrected on this if my information is wrong. The second category covers development and again is a broad-spectrum definition which can cover pretty much anything. In the third category we cover health which can be mental or physical and I believe this is the section that emotional abuse falls under. Again, if I am wrong and emotional abuse falls under a

different heading, I am happy to stand corrected. The fourth category of course being ill-treatment which is defined as including sexual abuse or any form of ill-treatment that is not physical is again open to speculation and interpretation.

All four categories are so obscure it is not reasonably possible for any local authority, court of law or government to expect a run-of-the-mill parent to fully understand what they cover. I'm not even sure if any trained, qualified, legal representative would be able to list every possible inclusion into any of those four categories. I remember once many years ago reading a poster which classed telling your child no as a form of abuse. When it comes to something as important as our children, as important as the future of this country, why would the definitions of what constitutes child abuse be harder to understand in the 1989 children's act than they were 100 years earlier in the 1889 act of legislation? I'm not surprised that most parents walk out of family court after having their children removed and still have no idea what they did wrong. Furthermore, I believe that if the local authority social workers did their jobs from the start and laid things out in plain English to the families there wouldn't be as many cases ending up in the court system. I have yet to hear of a social worker telling the victim of domestic abuse that they are being domestically abused, it's like they just expect the victim to know what is happening to them and to know what steps to take to rectify the situation. I hope that with the introduction of the domestic abuse act 2021 that things will be made easier for victims of domestic abuse and that more of them get the help that they need and manage to keep their children with them. I also find it extremely funny but not in a ha-ha way that since the introduction of the first child protection act in 1889 that not much has changed, if anything the number of children being removed from families is increasing and if the legislations were working and the system worked correctly that number should be decreasing dramatically.

Care plans in respect to care orders.

When the local authority intends to take a family to court to obtain the care order, they need to show the court a care plan. The care plan should be under constant review, revised if appropriate, scrapped if appropriate for a new care plan to be written. If the local authority does not already have a care plan when applying for an order they must write a care plan within the time directed to them by the court and there are rules surrounding what information a care plan must contain and how it is written unfortunately like most other things the rules surrounding the information in the care plan et cetera are not written within this act. According to the first part of this section of the children's act 1989 an application for care or supervision order should only take 26 weeks beginning with the day on which the application was issued. Each application is then divided into sections and each section is given its own time frame for completion this is classed as a timetable. When we look at this section and the wording therein not only does it state that an application under this section should be completed/ disposed of without delay it also goes on to say that the local authority can request an 8-week extension for each section of its timetable as well as request an extension to revise any section. Any application to a court regarding a child needs to be dealt with in a timely manner so that the child is not under undue stress, undue emotional harm, or left in limbo. However, we then get told that local authority can request

an 8-week extension for each section of its timetable which means that these supervision/ care order applications could be in front of a court for over a year without no definitive outcome for the child. Let's not forget here that when the parents of a child are stressed, even if they try to hide that from their children, it is going to affect how they parent their children. Sleepless nights, there is a link I believe between lack of sleep and irritability among other things. The emotional upheaval to the parents throughout social services involvement, more so when the local authority is taking them to court is going to impact their daily lives and by default impact their parenting and their ability to look after their children correctly. And that isn't even adding the anger, upset, devastation, that these parents go through when reading local authority court paperwork. There's going to be sections that they do not understand, they cannot be in an emotional heightened state and not be able to process what they are reading, they will automatically be in defensive mode and be worried about absolutely every little thing they do in case it is classed as another form of abuse. If the local authorities, the court system itself, and the government do not factor in the emotional well-being and physical well-being of the parents during this time then they are not taking into consideration the welfare of the child.

Parental contact with children in care. When the child is in the local authority care the local authority should allow the children reasonable contact with their parents, guardian, special guardian or any person with parental responsibility for the child it might not be written in this act, but they should also have reasonable contact with their siblings. And this contact is generally set up as part of the care order written by the court. Once again, place date categorically that the welfare of the child is paramount. Yes, there are reasons for not allowing a lot of contact if any with an abusive parent. And when I say abusive parent, I'm looking or thinking of parents that have broken their child's bones, have burnt their children, have sexually abused their children or have bullied, coercively controlled, manipulated their children. If there is clear cut evidence of that type of abuse, then yes it would be in the best interest of the child not to have much if any contact with that parent. However, from what I have been able to ascertain some parents who may have done minor things, or failed to protect the child from the other parent due to domestic abuse have ended up with only one or two contacts a year., I might be wrong but it appears to me from what I know and people I have spoken to the contact is generally around four maybe six times a year. If each one of these contacts is say 1 1/2 to two hours, then this is not enough time for the parents and the child to maintain a relationship. Many parents are not allowed telephone, online contact with their children and this is due to local authorities saying it is in the best interest of the child not to have that contact. I know of parents who have then literally never heard anything else about their child or the social worker has changed an after the social worker changes, they'd never hear anything else. Doesn't this leave a child with a sense of abandonment, as if they did something wrong and their parents don't love them anymore, that there is something wrong with them. Why is it that the local authority does not even attempt to work with the family in order to return the children back to the family once any safeguarding concerns have been resolved? You see ads all over the place screaming out for foster carers because they need more of them because the system is

overloaded and yet there are many instances we're given a little bit of time, support, education etc that these children could be reunited with their actual parents or at least one of them. Like I said earlier, there is nothing within the Children Act 1989 that says anything about sibling contact because it is in the Children Act 1989 that the court is supposed to keep siblings together. The truth it is that does not happen. It has even been in the national newspapers that siblings are separated within the care system, that families are destroyed, isn't it bad enough that you are ripping children away from their parents and then you add to that you're separating them from their brothers and sisters. I wouldn't mind it just sounds so ludicrous. More importantly it can cause psychological issues, abandonment issues, a lack of identity, low self-esteem, low self-worth, I could literally go on and on about the effects that this system is having on our bloody children all in the name of protecting our children. The local authority, the court, and the government do not give a rat's arse about our children. They do not, under any damn circumstances whatsoever, understand the complexities of domestic abuse. And as most of the cases that end up in court where children are removed will have an element of domestic abuse in them the fact that they have not done their research, they have not been trained, they do not give two monkeys where domestic abuse is concerned means that they are failing all parties involved especially the children.

I swear this legislation is completely about face, upside down, we go from discussing supervision and care orders which are long term orders to interim orders. Wouldn't it have been more logical to explain what an interim order was before explaining what a long-term order is? So, keeping this extremely damn quick, an interim order is an order for a specified period of time. So, where I was saying earlier that if the local authority applied for a short care order whilst a domestic abuse victim be that male or female managed to recover and get their life together enough to have their children back that's what an interim order would be. However, also like I have stated not very long ago they do not seem to understand domestic abuse and as such they do not use these orders to actually help keep children with their parent that was a victim of domestic abuse. This system used correctly could work and would lower the instances of domestic abuse as well as the instances of child abuse, it would also lower the number of children within the care system each year. Furthermore, if this damn system worked correctly, it would not put such a strain on the financial resources of this country. When you look at the fact that, every child within the care system that ends up with mental health then needs a mental health worker. Every parent of every child that ends up in the care system if the parent ends up with mental health problems that parent needs a mental health worker. Every parent or child that have been separated from each other that ends up with addiction problem then needs more medical help which then puts a strain on the NHS. Every parent or child is affected as a result of being separated and the care system that ends up on able to work because they have been completely in utterly soul destroyed put a strain on the Department of Work and pensions. The monetary strain that is being caused by a failing system is extraordinarily high. And it doesn't just cover one section of the overall system within this country. You were looking at strains on mental health services, strains on the NHS, strains on Department of Work and pension, strains on housing, which then put a strain on the water infrastructure and the power companies as

we need more housing to house more individuals that should have been able to be housed as a family.

Guardian ad litem. These or similar will be appointed by the court unless satisfied that it is not necessary to do so, and this is done in order to safeguard the interests of the child in a specific proceeding. However, depending on the age and understanding of the child the court may say the child needs a solicitor instead. Does anybody actually trust guardian ad litem? Parents don't trust Cafcass because they know that all either registered social workers or ex social workers. What connexion does the guardian ad litem have with the local authority? We know they generally do not represent the thoughts and wishes of the child, and we know that they do generally back up whatever the social worker is saying, which makes me wonder are they also social workers? Or, as parents who have been through the system even if that is only child in need plans with the local authority, away just jaded to anyone that works within the system? I mean I know we have no reason to trust absolutely anyone that has anything to do with the local authority or the family court system because we know how people have been screwed over time and time again. We've heard too many horror stories, we've seen too many newspaper headlines outlining failures within the system, we've been promised time and time again by the government that they're going to reform the system and the system does not get reformed. We are sick of being paid lip service to buy a bunch of politicians or social workers that as far as we are concerned are only interested in stealing our children and destroying our lives. The country as a whole, and yes, I know I'm speaking on behalf of other parents, we need to have our faith restored in the system, yeah unless something drastic happens I can't see there being a flying monkeys chance of it happening in my lifetime.

Again, it is another one of those topics that would have been best placed before you started discussing care orders. Why discuss child assessment orders after you discussed removing people's children from them? After all a child assessment order is only needed if the family are refusing to allow the local authority to assess the child. It can't get much simpler than that. And the legislation states that in order for an authorised person or local authority to apply for a child assessment order they've got to satisfy the court that the child is either suffering from or is likely to suffer from significant harm and that the assessment could not be completed without a court order. Interesting point though, is the fact it also states that where the child has significant understanding to make an informed decision, they can refuse to undergo medical, psychiatric or other assessments. But who is going to admit that the child has significant understanding apart from the parent? Especially, when we also are more than aware by this stage of the legislation that social workers will deliberately make friends with you and your family in order to coax information out of you and your children and could easily coerce your child who does have significant understanding to undergo medical, psychiatric or other assessments on the pretext of if they do this they will be able to prove their parents are innocent only for the local authority to twist everything that I mean those assessments and remove the child from the parent. I have to say here and maybe I shouldn't, but I wonder if a parent could possibly under any circumstances make a

counter allegation of coercive control in abusive behaviour from the social worker against either themselves or their children.

OK we're going to go onto emergency protection for children. Which hopefully, none of my readers ever have the misfortune of having to go through. So an emergency protection order can only be granted if the court is satisfied that the conditions are met and they would be that there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is likely to suffer significant harm if the order isn't granted or has suffered significant harm and essay, the child does not remain in the place they are being accommodated, the application is being made by a local authority, or inquiries are being made under section 47 and they cannot complete them because they've been refused access to a child. Oh, not forgetting it's got to be a matter of urgency and the child has to be very likely well it doesn't say very likely but it should say very likely to suffer significant harm without said order. This again just shows the lack of planning when it came to writing this act of legislation, because again the emergency protection for children should have been before the supervision and care order section. Just the same as the part on the police protection should have been before the other sections. I mean like if you are at the very start of social services butting their noses into your business and you decide you are going to have a look at the children's act 1989 because you have been told by hundreds of people maybe that that is the legislation that is going to be thrown at you, it would be better if it was laid out in such a manner that you would understand like the interim care orders the emergency care orders the police Protection Orders them sort of things before you get to the supervision and care order. It would also help if you had the categories of abuse nearer the top of the child act so that you're not having to try and decipher a hell of a lot of double talk, and this connect to the Care Act or this connects to the young person's act etc. More importantly there is all these things with brackets and numbers and stuff that doesn't make any sense to anyone who isn't legally minded or legally trained and it would just be so much bloody easier to lay this thing out in a format that normal everyday people can look through read, digest understand and not get themselves in trouble to start with.

OK, the local authority has a duty to investigate. Like we don't know this already and would have been better near the start of the legislation. Their duty to investigate will also cover other sections of the children's act like the fact that no person will be excluded from complying with such a requirement on the grounds that complying might incriminate him or his or their spouse or their civil partner of an offence. (More to do with recovery or discovery orders) However a statement or admission made in complying is not admissible in evidence against either of them in proceedings for any offence other than perjury. Now as anyone who was at any dealings with the social services will tell you that thing that I have just kind of read out in my own way, yeah, that is not complied with by the local authority. Because I am telling you straight, if your partner, spouse, friend with benefits, say something about you that could incriminate you, damn straight the social worker is going to use it against them in court. Even if the person is lying their head off it will be treated as a fact in court. Another very interesting point while we're talking about perjury is the fact the only time the word perjury is mentioned in the children's act 1989 is in relation to the parents. There is nothing in this whole act of legislation that hold social services, local

authorities, guardian ad litem, Cafcass or any other so-called professional body accountable for their misrepresentation of facts, otherwise known as lies. I know I know I've already covered the fact that they cut and paste, that they tried to decipher squiggles on the side of a page, the even if you've proven something to be false, they use it as fact, that they use conjecture and opinion which goes against the BASW rules, and as such they are committing perjury. So again, for the love of everything that is light and good in this world somebody explained to me why parents can be held in contempt or accused of perjury and the so-called professionals within the family court arena can commit perjury and not be held in contempt? In fact, even outside of the court arena you pull a social worker up on conjecture or opinion, even unconscious bias and nothing is done, none of the paperwork amended. More seriously, if misinformation is passed from one local authority to the next local authority you haven't got a cat in hell's chance of ever getting it removed from the paperwork.

As I've just been mentioning discovery and recovery orders, I should explain that bit. Both of these orders give the local authority, the police, and others that are granted the right by the court to question, and to your home, search your home, all in the name of finding the whereabouts of a child who has either absconded from care, is named on a emergency protection order or from police protection. This is the part where you lose your right to staying silent and you have to comply. So these orders will have the name of said child on them, the name of anyone the court believe may have information on the whereabouts of the child and any addresses they need to search because they think the child may be in them. And of course, if you deliberately give the wrong information you could end up being fined or imprisoned. As such, you have to trust your own judgement if you are ever in that situation.

The next kind of parts of this legislation that we will discuss are going to be provisions of community homes by local authorities, refuges for children at risk, voluntary organisations that provide accommodation for children, otherwise known as voluntary homes, children's homes and we'll leave the fostering ones for in a minute. OK so we have refuges so just scroll back to the refuges part, now these are or can be private, or voluntary homes where they put children at risk of harm and the certificates for them to be able to do this for the local authority come from the Secretary of State to the Secretary of State comes up in a lot of legislation. I would not want to be the secretary of state with all of this hassle on my head, unless of course I had the power to rectify the issues. Community homes can be single villa or jointly run with another local authority yeah, I was going to say that could lead to a bit of confrontation between two different local authorities, however, on very quick like 2 seconds reflection I've worked out there both working on the same page they're both singing from the same hymn sheet so it wouldn't matter. They are supposed to have regard to the different needs of children and be suitable for those differing needs. Is it wrong that in my head I have a picture of I community home that looks like a Princess castle for girls and I galleon ship style community home built for boys? (I know, gender profiling,) I am aware that's not what they mean by suitable for different needs, however I think somehow it would be more fun, although not exactly practical for securing the safety of children. (If I had the money, I would live in a house that looked like a dragon. I happen to like dragons) Maybe, this type of things would be best left as outdoor equipment for when the children

get outdoor time. On a more serious note, come on there is all this contractual responsibility on who is going to maintain, equip, run these community homes, and how many of them are used for the restriction of liberty of children. Sometimes I feel like a record, when I'm saying stuff in this document because again the local authority can outsource these things to voluntary organisations, and charities, and pretty much any other organisation they damn well want as long as the Secretary of State signed off on it. An if there is a dispute between the local authority and the supplier of one of these homes either party can be further dispute to the Secretary of State. Once again like a broken record I have to say I do not want the Secretary of State's job. The information I am giving on these community homes is pretty much the same as it is for the voluntary homes, care homes, whatever type homes.

I wouldn't call this an interesting fact, however the time period for dissolving a care home I believe has changed since the 1889 version. I am scanning my brain and I can't remember how long they actually had in that version I would have to go back and check, however in the 1989 version if for whatever reason a manager of a home decided they didn't want to continue running it they have to give in writing the Secretary of State and the local authority two years notice. I can't remember if the 1889 version was two or three years. Of course, the secretary of state may decide to end their certificate early or may actually pass the running of that home over to the local authority to cover whatever time period is left on the written notice. And there was some crap that I really could not be bothered to read that much in relation to the disposal of an any compensation regarding these kinds of what I will classes group homes.

This seems to run pretty much the same whether it's a voluntary organisation or it's a charity run organisation it is still basically a care home rather than a foster placement and we all know so much controversy goes on in those places that we hope our kids are never put in one. We have been told on numerous occasions by the government that they are looking at reforming these things and they never get reformed. Of course, An officer for the local authority can enter and inspect any premises where children are being accommodated for the local authority to check on the welfare of the children within that accommodation. This is supposed to be done when it says a reasonable time, I'm guessing a reasonable time of the day or maybe this is they send them an appointment and they sort of work out a date that works for both, either way i don't think this spot checks. The home accommodation provider is also required to give records as required under the regulations, which of course, we are not going to be told in this legislation. If the person doing the check requests it, they have to be given access to any computer or associated apparatus or material that has been used in connexion with keeping those records. Like somebody who is being paid to tick boxes and say yes, this care home is fine it's well maintained and we're not going to speak to any other children because we don't care blah blah blah blah is actually going to bother looking at any of those computerise records, unless they have been specifically ordered to do so. Do not bother rolling your eyes at the screen, or accusing me of being a conspiracy theorist because we know there are serious failings that have been reported in the newspapers regarding children's homes, so if I make an assumption that the person that's doing the inspection is not inspecting it properly that is on a probability scale of if



these people were doing their jobs a lot of these scandals that have hit the papers would have been sorted directly before too many people got hurt and would not have been ongoing for years. Thank you.

When it comes to arrangements for private fostering OK you can't foster your own child just so you know that. I know that probably does sound like I am giving useless information, however, I do know at least one person that put in paperwork to foster their own child. And the child is not fostered privately if the person accommodating or caring for them has been doing so for less than 28 days and does not intend to continue for more than 28 days.

Every local authority is to ensure that privately fostered children are visited periodically to ensure the child is suitably safeguarded and doing well within their placement. I'm sure I have already covered the hassle that is these safeguarding children within foster placements. I think I have adequately covered the fact that these children do not trust anybody that goes into these foster placements and generally do not trust the foster carers either. Furthermore, I think most people realise that when these children come out of care, they come out of care with pretty much nothing to show for it. It's not like they have as many possessions as they would have had if they'd been living at home. OK so we know that they are supposed to do these welfare checks and we know that let's be honest these welfare checks fail just the same as the care home checks fail.

Now we get onto something that is downright scary. I don't know how many people actually read to this section of the Children Act and I know it was not in the three other acts that I mentioned at the beginning of this document, what I am about to tell you I do not recall being part of the prevention of cruelty to and protection of Children Act 1889, the Children Act 1908, or the children and young persons act 1933. But this thing blew my brain. Persons disqualified from being a private foster parent. Now you would think if a person is disqualified from being a private foster parent then they are disqualified from looking after a looked after child. Yes, no, give it a second to think about it before you read on. Now get this for total and utter moo poo, get the hell out of here, this can't be real, unless the disclosure has been made to the appropriate local authority and consent granted in writing, I person shall not privately foster a child if they have been disqualified from doing so under the regulations set out by the secretary of state. Unless, they have consent in writing, what the absolute .....? If somebody has been disqualified from looking after a child in the care system they should never be able to look after a child in the care system again. Not, I got written permission from the local authority. And once again where are these regulations as set out by the Secretary of State and why aren't they part of this act or why isn't there a link so we can check them.

Now I tried looking under the reasons why somebody can be disqualified, i did try to make sense of it what I worked out, it must be written in code. An order of a specific kind in the regulations has been made towards them, and order within the regulations has been made in respect to a child that has been in their care, a requirement of some kind has been imposed regarding a child as part of that in act meant, they have been convicted of a specific kind of offence, discharged conditionally or absolutely for said offence, that sounds like code. In fact that is more obscure then the four sections we were given to explain child

abuse. There are also rules around a person being disqualified from fostering children not being in the same household as a person who wishes to foster a child. Then there is the other section which is about maybe they're not suitable to be a private foster carer or the premises accommodation is not suitable and would be prejudicial to the welfare of a child however in those circumstances an application can be made by the person wishing to privately foster to overturn it being prohibited if they believe they have satisfied the reasons and that reason is no longer valid. Of course there are rules around if you work in a care home and you have been disqualified that you know you're not supposed to work in another care home again you have to inform the local authority in writing and get your get out of gaol free card off of them in writing for you to be able to work in another one or still be associated with another care home or still have a monetary interest or gain money from its from another care home. The wording is quite obscure but breaking it down to an essence of these disqualifications it would appear that you can be disqualified from being able to look after a child within the local authority care system, write to either that local authority or a different local authority if you've moved and be given a letter in writing saying that you're allowed around vulnerable children again. So where parents who make a mistake get penalised by having their children removed off them and put with strangers who are supposed to be able to care for them better than the parents can and the parents are pretty much penalised until that child turns 18, someone who works within this broken system can break the rules and hurt a child, write a letter to the local authority and go straight back to working with children again. How the dickens does that work, after all these are supposed to be trained people who know the difference between right and wrong, who are supposed to be professionals, I know supposed to be better than the parents. A parent doesn't have all that training, or knowledge, or understanding and yet they get penalised where a professional doesn't. An all of this in a legislation that was designed to protect children in care!

Moving away from that absolute mind melting information there is a section on whether or not children are allowed to testify in family court cases, or if they're going to be forced to attend a court case, whereas, in the older legislations children under a certain age were not allowed in the courtroom whatsoever unless they were a runner for the court.

That section also covers privacy for children involved in certain proceedings and this is the part that anyone who is involved with social media needs take notice of. No person shall publish to the public at large or any section of the public any material which is intended, or likely, to identify any child as being involved in any proceedings before the High Court or the family court. This also covers publishing the address or school as being that of a child involved in any such proceedings. Wake up people. If you go on social media and start telling all and sundry about an ongoing court case, share court paperwork, discuss the school that another child goes to who is in the process or possibly involved with the local authority, and the local authority or the court find out about it you are going to be in a world of trouble. Please, for the love of everything that is good and light in this world think before you tell people you have never actually met in person on any social media platforms about your court case or about an ongoing situation with the local authority. There are TV shows about people who have been catfished, there are TV shows on all sorts of stuff to do

with social media and fake profiles and adults pretending to be children et cetera et cetera. You guys and girls, however you identify, need to protect yourself and your children. This leads very nicely into the self-incrimination part of this legislation where it does state under part four or five of this act no person will be excused from giving evidence or answering questions while giving evidence on the grounds that they may incriminate themselves or their spouse. Any statement of admission made in such proceedings will not be used as evidence against them or their spouse in any other proceedings apart from perjury. If the local authority or any of the other professionals that you are fighting against get wind that you're on social media discussing the ins and outs of a duck arse regarding your case, they can whilst you are on the stand question you about it and if you lie thinking you are going to get away with it and they have proof, they have then got you on perjury, and then the judge is not going to believe it damn word you said up to that point. Or, they are going to get you on the fact that you have broken court rules and published information about your case.

Seeing as I don't want to bore anyone or annoy anyone anymore than I already have I will cover the section on corporate bodies who commit an offence under this act, sum up what I've been saying and then sign off.

Corporate bodies, if an offence is proved to have been committed with the consent, or knowledge of, or can be attributed to any neglect on the part of a director, manager, secretary or similar officer of a corporate body or any person who is acting in that capacity they shall be a guilty of an offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly. This can be taken a couple of different ways, this could mean that it covers any organisation that is working with the local authority in providing help, support, accommodation et cetera for either children in need or children within the care system and that if a child gets hurt and those in power within the company knew about it then they're in a world of hurt. Although, I don't recall ever reading anything in the news about these big corporate bodies being taken down by local authorities or when children have been hurt within their care. Another take on this is that small companies, charities, limited companies, sole traders, CIC's, partnerships or other business model companies that say they are going to help families going through legal battles, or social services investigations or anything to do with children if they step out of line and speak openly regarding the abuse within the system and mention children's names or schools or if they publish any court documents or material on online, on social media, on websites whatever they would be the ones I think the local authority would go after because they are smaller than the local authority they do not have as much money as the local authority and the local authority just like to shut down anybody who speaks out against them.

I know I've said it more than once I want you guys to protect yourself. And that doesn't just mean the men, I mean the women or whatever gender you are, the people, the human beings, now I'm wondering if somebody is going to have a go because they don't actually class themselves as being a human being so you know if you are a living entity or you class yourself as being a dead entity, maybe you don't class yourself as an entity whatsoever, it doesn't matter. If you're reading this, I want you to protect yourself and your children. If you

can't afford a solicitor and you cannot get legal aids before you go anywhere else research, if you're going to use the McKenzie friend make sure they registered as a McKenzie friend, if you are using social media be careful what you put out there into the universe/ metaverse. If you decide to approach a company or a charity double check that they are registered, that they have public liability, that they have good reviews. Just because a social worker is nice to you does not mean you can trust them. If you are in a domestically abusive situation speak to someone who is qualified from a trusted, domestic abuse association or charity. Do not suffer in silence, do not think that you have to stay with that abuser in order to get your children or to stop them from going into the system. Whatever possible research anything and everything that comes up within your paperwork, double check the qualifications of the professionals that are brought into your life, and lastly but most importantly I wish each and everyone of you your best possible life. May your lives be filled with as much happiness, light, and love as possible.

Please, remember this was compiled using Word dictation, so there may be some errors in translation.

