

Freedom of Information Request – Response – 27899

Follow-up request 27758

I am writing to request a specific refinement and follow-up to the response provided under Freedom of Information Request 27758.

To ensure absolute statutory clarity, I am narrowing my request strictly to the application of Section 2(7) of the Children Act 1989, which explicitly states:

“Where more than one person has parental responsibility for a child, each of them may act alone and without the other (or others) in meeting that responsibility...”

Please provide:

1. Recorded Guidance Naturally Procured from Section 2(7) Any current or historic policy, internal procedure, practice guidance, staff briefing note, training manual, or recorded legal instruction held by Children’s Services that is naturally procured from this specific piece of legislation, outlining how social work staff are required to recognise and respect a parent's statutory right to act independently in the absence of a restrictive court order.

2. Statutory Thresholds for Reversing the Independent Default Position Any policy, procedure, or legal briefing document identifying the statutory mechanism or threshold by which Suffolk County Council considers that the independent default position established under Section 2(7) can be administratively overridden or made contingent upon a resident parent's consent, without an explicit court order.

Suffolk County Council hold no specific policy, guidance or documents for these matters raised but deal with these situations on a case-by-case basis.

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