



# **District Judge (Magistrates' Courts)**

**2016**

**Assessment Centre**

**June 2016**

**Role Play - Applicant Booklet**

## Instructions to Applicants

- The role play exercise is intended to assess all areas of the Personal Profile.
- The Role Play exercise will last for **35 minutes in total**.
  - **15 minutes preparation time**
  - **20 minutes for the Role Play**
- You have **15 minutes** to read the Role Play scenario and prepare for the Role Play. This preparation will be timed and you must stop working when the staff member advises. You may write notes during the 15 minutes preparation time and bring them into the 'Court' room.
- At the end of your **15 minutes** preparation time the member of staff will advise you to finish your preparation and bring you through to the Court room and ask the court to stand when you enter.
- There are **20 minutes** allowed for the Role Play exercise, the Role Play will be timed. The conclusion of the Role Play will be indicated by the sound of a digital alarm at which point the member of staff will call 'All Rise' and bring a halt to the exercise.
- The member of staff will then escort you from the room.
- Following a five minute break you will then have a de-brief on the role play exercise with the Selection Committee at which they may ask you questions regarding the action you took during the role play.

The Role Play scenario is provided overleaf.

## **ROLE PLAY MATERIAL FOR CANDIDATES**

The case is a Family matter.

The Applicant is John Wilson who will represent himself in court. The Respondent is Margaret Wilson, who will be represented by her Solicitor, Jennifer Black.

Mr Wilson has made an application for contact with their son, Christopher (11), who resides with his mother. John and Margaret Wilson have been separated for 5 years.

The following additional materials are provided –

- Form C1
- Judges Note from previous hearing on 10 May 2016
- Summary of the Interim Report from Children's Court Officer dated 16 June 2016

**FORM C1**

**APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER**

THE CHILDREN (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1995

FAMILY PROCEEDINGS RULES 1996

IN THE FAMILY PROCEEDINGS COURT

John Wilson

Applicant

And

Margaret Wilson

Respondent

**1. About you (the Applicant)**

John Wilson 1 High Street Belfast. Date of birth: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1975

**2. Persons to be served with this application**

Margaret Wilson 23 North Street Belfast

**3. The child and the Order you are applying for:**

The child is my son, Christopher Wilson, date of birth 3 April 2005, and I am applying for an order for contact with him

**4. Other cases which concern the child:**

N/A

**5. The Respondent:**

The Respondent is my wife, Margaret Wilson, date of birth 24 June 1977

**6. The care of the child:**

The child is currently living with his mother at the former matrimonial home

**6a. Domestic abuse, violence or harm:**

Do you believe that the child named above has suffered or is at risk of suffering any harm from any of the following or through seeing or hearing any of the following:

- Any form of domestic abuse
- Violence within the household
- Other conduct or behaviour
- Ill treatment of another person

By any person who is or who has been involved in caring for the child or lives with, or has contact with, the child?

Please tick the box which applies:

Yes

No

**7. Social Services:**

Christopher is not known to the Social Services.

**8. The education and health of the child:**

Christopher is in good health. He is a pupil at Belfast primary school and is making good progress there.

**9. The parents of the child:**

My wife and I are the parents of Christopher.

**10. The family of the child (other children):**

N/A

**11. Other adults:**

N/A

**12. Your reason for applying and any plans for the child:**

My wife and I separated 5 years ago. I had sporadic contact with Christopher until last year. I have not seen him in just over a year. I believe that his Mother is influencing him and obstructing contact. She has been very reluctant to agree proper contact between Christopher and me alleging that he is scared of me. I have always been a hands-on father and there is a wonderful relationship between my son and me. I believe that the intransigent attitude of my wife to contact is affecting that relationship. I feel it is in Christopher's best interests to immediately start overnight contacts at weekends to allow us to make up for lost time. My new partner is due to give birth in the near future and I want the contact well established.

**13. At Court:**

N/A

**SIGNED: John Wilson**

**DATED: 1 June 2016**

## **JUDGES NOTE**

**10 May 2016**

First appearance in list. Father seeks contact after break of over a year. Mother agrees with contact in principle but says Christopher (11) is scared of Father.

Directed Court Children's Officer should interview parents and Christopher to prepare short report and if possible make any recommendations for contact to recommence. Both parties to see report when available.

Relist 21.06.16 to consider report and views of parties and progress matters.

## **Children's Court Officer (CCO) Report received on 16 June 2016**

In summary;

The CCO has provided a short interim report. She has met both parents and Christopher. She says the parents are obstructive and their responses demonstrate their acrimonious relationship. The CCO has had some difficulty in engaging with Christopher and feels he is being influenced – consciously or unconsciously – by his Mother. He does not want to let her down. Whilst he is scared of his Father he does want a relationship with him. He just wants his parents to get on so he can live a normal life. The CCO recommends that contact be restarted, but at a pace and level which allows Christopher to adapt and be able to re-engage with his Father.