

(a) Article 34D, 35, 35A or 35B of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order (NI 2) (which provide for the continuing duties of those bodies towards young persons); or (b) regulations made under Article 34E of that Order (which may provide for the appointment of personal advisers for certain young persons).

If the child is not in immediate danger, the HSCT Gateway Service should carry out an initial assessment within 10 working days. They will use all the available information to decide what further action is required. As part of this process, they must consider whether the Joint Protocol should be implemented. This is a framework for joint investigative working between the police and social workers HSCB, They may offer additional support instead make the child a child in need. A pathway assessment will be carried out to give an in-depth assessment of their needs provide time-limited intervention. The strategy discussion may involve a range of professionals working with the family. Its purpose is to ensure an early exchange of information and clarify what action needs to be taken by the PSNI and the HSCT either separately or together. The following action can be taken through the courts: Emergency protection order, child assessment order, interim care order or supervision order. Excluding a named individual. The police are able to remove the child in an emergency but this is only done in exceptional circumstances. Case conferences If the child is at risk of significant harm, a case conference is held. Relevant professionals can then share information, identify risks and outline what needs to be done to protect the child. The initial case conference should take place within 15 working days of the child protection referral. At this point the responsibility of the case is transferred to the Family Intervention Team. If professionals at the initial case conference decide a child is at risk of significant harm they will add the child to the child protection register, and draw up a child protection plan. Case conferences should continue at regular intervals until either: Child protection measures Child protection register In Northern Ireland the child protection register CPR is a confidential list of all children in the local area who have been identified as being at risk of significant harm. It allows authorised individuals to check if a child they are working with is known to be at risk. If a child is added to the CPR they must also have a child protection plan, which sets out what action needs to be taken by whom and when, in order to safeguard the child and promote their welfare. Unless the level of risk requires the courts to get involved immediately, care proceedings will only start after extensive efforts to keep the child with their family. This includes children who have nobody to look after them or whose parents are unable to look after them for a period of time, due to illness or other problems. Going to court Care proceedings are usually held in the Family proceedings Court and more complex cases may be held in Family Care Centres or the High Court. The court will make sure the child has a guardian ad litem appointed to them. If the child is mature enough they are allowed to appoint their own solicitor to represent their wishes. Interim care order At the initial hearing the court may decide that an interim care order is needed to set out what should happen to the child during proceedings. This is awarded for eight weeks, and must be renewed every four weeks, allowing for investigation and further plans to be made. The HSCT will produce a care plan. In some cases the child may continue living at home with the parents under specified conditions. Concurrent planning While the interim care order is in place, professionals can work together with the family to see if the child can return home. Other options that may be explored are rehabilitation and placement. Rehabilitation aims to return the child to their birth family, while placements offer options for fostering or adoption. Full care order The court will only make a full care order if they are convinced that: Placement order This allows a child to be placed with prospective adopters prior to an adoption order, should the local authority believe this is the best option for the child. Courts only make adoption orders following extensive enquiries, based on the best interest of the child. At the point of adoption the care order ends and the adoptive parents gain sole parental responsibility. Unless an adoption order is made or the child returns home, care orders last until the child turns 18. HSCTs have a duty to continue to promote the welfare of care-leavers until the age of 18. This sets out parental responsibilities and rights and the

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duties and powers public authorities have to support children. This includes offences against children. Policy and guidance This states that children should:

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Chapter 2 : Children and Young People | Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland

Legislation and guidance. The legislative framework for Northern Ireland's child protection system is set out in The Children (Northern Ireland) Order. This sets out parental responsibilities and rights and the duties and powers public authorities have to support children.

Further help Adoption If you are under the age of 18, you can be adopted if you are not married or in a registered civil partnership. As a child, you will have little say over who adopts you, but you should be consulted by the adoption agency or social services department involved in the adoption. If you are under 18, you have no legal right to know the identity of your birth parents. Once you reach 18, you have a right to apply to see your birth record and to use the Adoption Contact Register. The register helps adopted people get contact details of birth relatives who have also registered. Changing your name You cannot change your name until you are 16 years old. Between 16 and 18, you might need parental consent to change your name. Local authority care You can only be taken into care if you are under 18 and the local authority has obtained a court order. You have a right to know why you are in care, under which law and how long you are likely to remain there. You can be accommodated by a local authority without a court order if a parent requests it or gives permission. However, the local authority must take your wishes into account. Further information may be available from Become see under heading Further help. Marriage If you are under 16 and marry, it will not be legal unless your marriage took place in a country with a lower marriage age limit than If you are 16 or 17 you cannot marry without parental consent. Both parents with parental responsibility must give parental consent. In some circumstances, other people may give parental consent. In Northern Ireland a young person under 18 cannot marry without the consent of certain people. If they refuse permission, in England and Wales you can apply to the Family Court for permission to marry. In Northern Ireland you apply to the County Court. Anyone aged 18 or over can be married without parental permission. In England and Wales, both opposite sex and same sex couples can get married. For more information on marriage, see Getting married. In Northern Ireland, although two people of the same sex cannot get married, they can register a civil partnership see under heading Civil partnerships. Civil partnerships A civil partnership is a legal relationship which can be registered by two people of the same sex. If you are in a gay or lesbian relationship, registering a civil partnership will give your relationship legal recognition. This will give you added legal rights, as well as responsibilities. You are not allowed to register a civil partnership if one of you is under If you are a young person of 16 or 17 who wants to register a civil partnership, you may only do this with the consent of your parents. Anyone aged 18 or over can register a civil partnership without parental permission. For more information about registering a civil partnership, in England and Wales see Registering a civil partnership. Parents aged under 16 Mothers aged under 16 If you are under 16 and have a baby, you have the same legal rights and responsibilities towards the child as any mother. Benefits and tax credits If you live with your parents and they are claiming Child Tax Credit, both you and your child can be included in the claim. Your parents may also be able to claim a Social Fund Maternity Grant for you and your child. If they are claiming Housing Benefit, they can include you and your child in their claim. Benefit claims in these circumstances can be complicated and you or a parent should seek advice from an experienced adviser, for example, at Citizens Advice. Search for your nearest Citizens Advice. Vouchers for free milk, fruit and vegetables If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant, your parents can get vouchers for free milk, fruit and vegetables for you. Income Support income-related Employment and Support Allowance Child Tax Credit and have an annual income below a certain amount Check what extra help and benefits you could get for maternity and children. Education Local education authorities have a duty to ensure that all children under 16 receive an education. They still have this duty to you, even if you become a mother. Housing As a young mother you will not normally be able to obtain privately rented or council accommodation because you are too young to be granted a tenancy. However, you can contact the local authority social services department and ask it to find you

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accommodation, as long as your parents agree. If you have housing problems you should consult an experienced adviser, for example, at Citizens Advice. Child maintenance The Child Maintenance Service could arrange for the father of your child to pay maintenance. For more information, see Child maintenance " where to start , or visit the website of Child Maintenance Options, at: Fathers aged under 16 As a father aged under 16, you may want to have a formal relationship with your child by applying for parental responsibility and a child arrangements order. If, as a young father, you need to seek advice about applying for a parental responsibility agreement, you should consult an experienced adviser, for example, at Citizens Advice. Child maintenance If you are aged under 16 and father a child, the Child Maintenance Service can expect you to pay maintenance for the child. Once the agency is satisfied that you are the father, you will be expected to make maintenance payments when you begin earning or receiving a benefit. Wills If you are under 18, you cannot make a valid will unless you are in the armed forces or a seafarer. No one under the age of 18 can act as a trustee, executor or administrator of a will.

Chapter 3 : Welcome to the Website of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

(2) The Commissioner shall keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice relating to the rights and welfare of children and young persons. (3) The Commissioner shall keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of services provided for children and young persons by relevant authorities.

Chapter 4 : Young people and family - Citizens Advice

Welcome to the Website of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People The job of the Commissioner, Koulla Yiasouma, is to safeguard and promote the rights and best interests of children and young people.

Chapter 5 : Home - Children's Law Centre

Capacity Legislation. One of the main recommendations of the Framework report is to introduce capacity legislation in Northern Ireland. It is important that children and young people are given the opportunity to participate fully in any decisions regarding their healthcare and treatment.

Chapter 6 : The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order

Current legislation, guidelines, policies and procedures within Northern Ireland affecting the safeguarding of children and young people. Children (Northern Ireland) Order This is the principal statute governing the care, upbringing and protection of children in Northern Ireland.

Chapter 7 : Child protection system for Northern Ireland

The Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability (Northern Ireland) was established in October to examine all aspects of the law, policy and provisions that affect people with mental health needs or a learning disability in Northern Ireland.

Chapter 8 : Children and Young People | Department of Education

The Children and Young People's Strategy Team. The Children and Young People's Strategy Team, work in cooperation with Executive departments, agencies, (i.e. children's authorities) stakeholders and children and young

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people in Northern Ireland and are responsible for.

Chapter 9 : Children leaving care and aftercare | Department of Health

educational services because of the severity or complexity of their disability, enjoy equal access to education children and young people with a mental health difficulty or a learning disability have the right to an effective and.