

Extracts

NICOLE BLACK EXTRACTS FROM DOCUMENTS HELD BY SCRA

Please note: Some names have been removed from the document extracts. It would not be reasonable or appropriate to disclose this information to you. In order to make the extracts reader-friendly, names of relevant third-parties have been replaced with a descriptor or [].

2014-05-28 – Child Protection Plan

Support Proposed - Social Worker to undertake a comprehensive assessment which is to include a chronology.

[]'s physical and emotional needs, Ms Black's individual needs and her capacity to support []'s care arrangements. If further concerns are noted, or there is an increase in risk social services to liaise with NAC legal services to seek alternative measures of care in respect of [].

Nicole Black has agreed to [] social worker liaising with GP to obtain information regarding her health issues and who is involved in supporting her

[] is to make a referral to Money Matters in order to maximise Nicole Black's benefits.

[] asked Ms Black about her personal health difficulties. Ms Black explained that she suffers from uncontrollable epilepsy and fits due to psychological trauma she endured when she was younger. Ms Black also suffers from asthma, which can be worse in the summer. Ms Black also takes anti-depressants and explained that these were initially prescribed for post-natal depression, and the GP has continued this prescription to help Ms Black's with her issues in relation to epilepsy

Ms Black's physical and mental health is of concern, coupled with the fact that she takes antidepressants.

Ms Nicole Black has agreed to [], Social Worker liaising with Ms Black's GP to obtain information regarding her health issues and who is involved in supporting her.

Ms Nicole Black was advised of her Right of Appeal — should she wish to appeal the decision to register she should put her appeal in writing to [], Head of Service, within five working days of the meeting

2014-08-19 Reporter Investigation Form

Reporter's Decision: Arrange Hearing -

Reporter's Decision Details: Various concerns re care child is receiving. Mother's negative parenting style, locks on outside of bedroom doors, mother maintain contact with schedule 1 offender against the advice of SW. SW have been providing advice for some time with limited impact. Mother maintaining contact with schedule 1 offender against SW advice and limited impact on parenting. Hearing required to consider compulsory measures.

GROUND OF REFERRAL AS AMENDED AND WITHOUT EVIDENCE LED

**ESTABLISHED AT KILMARNOCK SHERIFF COURT ON, 25th September 2014
STATEMENT OF GROUNDS**

Section 67 Ground

The children's reporter has arranged a children's hearing for []
Because the reporter believes the following ground applies:

that in terms of Section 67(2)(a) of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act, 2011 he is likely to suffer unnecessarily or his health or development is likely to be seriously impaired, due to a lack of parental care.

Supporting Facts

Ms Nicole Black suffers from epilepsy, non-epileptic fits, asthma, hay fever, chronic back pain, severe migraines and depression. Ms Black experiences a number of unexpected epileptic seizures on a daily basis that require her to rest for several hours at a time.

Ms Black has allowed a registered sex offender to stay overnight in the family home whilst [] is present and has shown limited insight into the risks he poses to [] , despite social services providing her with information with regards to these risks. Ms Black has continued her relationship with this individual against the advice of social services.

Ms Black has fitted locks to the outside of bedroom doors within the home which has caused distress and anxiety to [] .

2014-10-30 Statutory Record of Proceedings Decision of Pre-Hearing Panel or Children's Hearing

Decision 3 - to make a compulsory supervision order

Reason for decision - Both mum and [] have fully engaged with services involved to help and support them. The issues at home centre on setting appropriate boundaries and routines for [] and some help and guidance is being given regarding this. The family care worker visits the home frequently. Both mum and [] were receptive to [] being placed on a Compulsory Supervision Order.

Mum reported that she no longer has any contact with [] as she realises now the risk that [] was being placed at.

2016-09-12 Statutory Record of Proceedings Decision of Pre-Hearing Panel or Children's Hearing

Decision 2 - to proceed in the absence of a relevant person, Nicole Black, Mother, at 10 20am

Reason for decision - Nicole Black became upset on several times during the hearing claiming that she was the victim in all this, despite several assurances that her views

were being considered she finally left the room telling the panel that her mother would represent her.

2016-10-20 Statutory Record of Proceedings Decision of Pre-Hearing Panel or Children's Hearing

Decision 3 - To include a measure that the child may have letterbox contact with mum
The hearing made this decision for the following reason(s):

Reason for decision - The panel decided that [] should have letterbox contact only with his mother who has her own particular difficulties and is not seen by the local authority and indeed also the panel to be able to offer any benefit to the child through any other form of contact.

2017-01-17 Statutory Record of Proceedings Decision of Pre-Hearing Panel or Children's Hearing

Decision 6 To include in the order a requirement that [] shall have contact with his Mother, Nicola Black a minimum of once per week, for one hour, supervised by the local authority

Reason for decision - The majority decision was to reduce contact to minimum once a week for one hour. The panel stressed on mum the need to prove that she can care for [] and to show more of her feelings towards him. There is no doubt that mum and [] love the child but this needs to be sustained and progressed. The minority decision was to continue contact as it is with mum showing more maternal approach to [] and to focus on his needs

2017-05-29 Statutory Record of Proceedings Decision of Pre-Hearing Panel or Children's Hearing

Decision 4 - To not appoint a safeguarder, s30

Reason for decision - The majority decision was not to appoint a Safeguarder at this time as although there was conflict, there had been a detailed and open discussion and []'s welfare was being safeguarded by all involved in his care including carers school, family and Social Work. Sufficient information was available today to make a substantive decision particularly on the issue of contact. The minority decision was to appoint a Safeguarder because of the conflict between the views of mum and [] on the one hand and the Social Work department, School and Foster Carers as to what was in []'s best interests. Also [] had advised the Hearing that he wished more contact (although his reasons for this were unclear). Mum also assured the Panel that she was attending a Parenting Assessment Course and was prepared to do anything Social Work required to get [] back

2018-01-24 Social Work Child Assessment & Plan

Specific Health Issues - Family or Carer - Ms Black reports that with the correct medication her epilepsy and fits have become less frequent Ms Black also suffers from asthma, and allergies. Ms Black reports she has a history of depression.

Historical

Nicole Black was adopted when she was three years old.

It appears that the adoption was voluntary by Nicole's biological mother who had a history of alcohol misuse. Nicole had a younger step-sibling who was also placed for adoption during this period. Nicole was diagnosed with a heart murmur when she was around three years old, however over time this did not cause any further health difficulties. Nicole also had experienced health issues with her hearing and had grommets fitted to her ears when she was four years of age.

While Nicole was growing up in Newton Mearns she attended Crookfur Primary School. Nicole did not experience any significant difficulties throughout Primary School generally she had a positive educational experience.

In 1992 [Parents] ended their relationship; As a direct result the family home was sold. [] and Nicole then moved to Thornliebank in Glasgow. Due to unforeseen housing issues and the family later presenting themselves as homeless, [] was forced to move with Nicole to Dundee and live with []'s father. At the time Nicole was 13 years old and for a brief spell attended secondary school in Dundee. Approximately eighteen months later [] and Nicole moved to Maryhill in Glasgow.

When Nicole Black was 14 years old she was knocked down on the way home from school. Nicole suffered a broken leg and was admitted to hospital for seven days as a result of the accident. Several weeks after her discharge from hospital Ms Black was diagnosed with epilepsy. The male driver was not charged for reckless driving and [] and Nicole struggled to cope with the circumstances surrounding the accident. Unfortunately the male driver lived in close proximity to the family home in Maryhill which the family found distressing. [] and Nicole made the decision to then move to Largs in North Ayrshire where Nicole attended Largs Academy for the remainder of her secondary education.

When Ms Nicole Black was 18 years old she decided to further her education and enrolled into college at Clydebank. It was during this time she became close friends with [] and soon afterwards the couple later became intimately involved with each other.

According to reports Ms Black and [] then moved to Derby to start a new life and have a family of their own.

Nicole had requested her mother's support as she had reported her epileptic seizures were becoming more frequent and felt isolated at the time.

Ms Nicole Black then ended her relationship with [] and moved out the family home to reside with her new partner, Nicole Black stated that she had an unplanned pregnancy with [] who was the biological father of her then unborn child.

Ms Nicole Black reported that []'s father, became very controlling and she separated from him during her pregnancy and moved back to Scotland with her mother. Ms Black sought refuge in Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire for a short period during her pregnancy, before being offered homeless accommodation in Largs.

During her pregnancy Ms Black reports that she did not experience any health difficulties or any epileptic fits and generally kept in good health.

The family were then offered a tenancy, when [] was around five months old.

Ms Nicole Black has ongoing health issues which had impacted on her ability to provide her son with the fulltime daily care that he required. Ms Black had previously stated that she suffers from epilepsy, non-epileptic fits, asthma, hay fever, chronic back pain, severe migraines, depression and memory loss. Ms Black further reports that every day she will experience a number of unexpected epileptic seizures that require her to rest for several hours at a time.

There have been historical concerns raised regarding Ms Nicole Black's ability to provide a nurturing environment for her son when he was a baby.

Observations and departmental records report that Ms Nicole Black has a limited insight into meeting her child's emotional needs. This has been historically evidenced by Universal Agencies and despite ongoing supports and Child Protection measures little effective changes have been made. On 17/10/16, Ms Black had requested further supports in relation to parenting and admitted to not having been "emotionally available" for [] due to past events impacting on her wellbeing and parenting ability. Ms Black said that she has had "a lot of emotional difficulties in the past" and this has affected her relationship with [].

Ms Nicole Black also informed workers that she has engaged in parenting classes, she was also exploring the possibility of additional support for victims of domestic abuse. Ms Nicole Black also stated that she did not agree with []'s future care plan in foster placement, however displayed limited insight to how best to safeguard him and what was in her child's best interests.

According to Nicole Black, she has been unable all her adult life to overcome her own traumatic childhood experiences. She also reports that she had actively sought out a private counsellor, acknowledging she has huge issues relating to her own childhood attachment with her biological mother. Nicole reports that she is trying to make positive changes in her life that will support her to 'be a better mum'

2019-07-08 Statutory Record of Proceedings Decision of Pre-Hearing Panel or Children's Hearing

Decision 3 – To continue and vary the compulsory supervision order dated 15/11/2018.

Reason for decision – There was no doubt that [] continues to need care, protection and guidance that the order affords him. Historically his other has failed to provide [] with the stability and protection that he requires, this continues to manifest itself during contact

Decision 5 - to include in the order a measure that [] shall have letterbox contact only with his mother Nicole Black.

Reason for decision – For three years [] has been having contact of a less than adequate quality, he is exposed to scenes of aggressive and disturbing behaviour. It was felt that this could no longer continue.

