
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1996 No. 479

The Children's Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996

Part VI

Authority visits to Children in Voluntary Homes or Registered Children's Homes

Circumstances necessitating visits by authorities

35. Every authority shall arrange for one of its officers to visit every child who is accommodated within its area in a voluntary home or in a registered children's home in any of the following circumstances and within the periods specified—

- (a) where the authority is informed that a child not in the care of, nor being looked after by, any authority has been placed in such accommodation, within 7 days of being so informed;
- (b) where the voluntary organisation or the person carrying on a registered children's home providing such accommodation makes representations to the authority that there are circumstances relating to the child which require a visit, within 14 days of receipt of those representations; or
- (c) when the authority is informed that the welfare of a child may not be being safeguarded or promoted, within 24 hours of being so informed.

Further visits

36.—(1) After a visit ("the first visit") has been made under regulation 35, the authority shall arrange for such further visits to the child by one of its officers as appears to the authority to be necessary, (whether in the light of a change of circumstances or not), and shall in any event arrange for the further visits provided for by paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) Where the authority is satisfied following the first visit that the child's welfare is being safeguarded and promoted, the authority shall arrange for a further visit by one of its officers where the first visit was made in the circumstances specified in regulation 35(a), within 6 months of the first visit.

(3) Where the authority is not satisfied following the first visit that the child's welfare is being safeguarded and promoted, but has decided that the child should continue to reside in the same accommodation, the authority shall arrange for a further visit by one of its officers within 7 days of the first visit.

Requirements for visits

37.—(1) Every authority shall ensure that in the course of visits to which regulations 35 and 36 refer, an officer of the authority—

- (a) sees the child alone (unless exceptionally he considers it unnecessary);

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- (b) reads all relevant case papers and records concerning the child kept by the voluntary organisation or the person carrying on the registered children's home, and signs and dates them to indicate that he has seen them; and
 - (c) makes a written report of his visit which shall be copied to the voluntary organisation or person carrying on the registered children's home.
- (2) The voluntary organisation or the person carrying on the registered children's home shall provide suitable accommodation for a visit made under regulation 35 or 36.