|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Our Ref:  | Phone: Fax:  |

Dear

**YOUR CHILDREN’S COURT MATTER**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Born on:**  |

I refer to our appearance in the Children’s Court on .

**What I Told You**

I told you that I thought it might be a good idea to ask the Court to make an Order for a clinic report.

I told you that a clinic report is a report written by a Clinician (usually a social worker or psychologist) that gives the Court recommendations about what the long term arrangements for the children should be.

I explained that the Court would only make an Order for a clinic report if the Court thought that there wasn’t any other way to get information about your parenting.

The clinician reads all the documents and then meets with you (and with anyone else the Court decides they should meet) and then writes a report which everyone (including the Magistrate) gets to read. It usually takes between 4-6 weeks to have the report prepared.

If the report recommends that the children should come home, then this is likely to be a good thing for your matter. The Court often listens to what the clinician says.

If the report doesn’t recommend that the children should come home, then it might make it harder for you to argue that they should come home.

**What You Told me**

Before we went into Court we were able to talk about your matter and you told me:

**Court Outcome**

Your matter was listed before . appeared for Community Services, appeared for , and appeared as the Independent Legal Representative (“ILR”) for . (The ILR represents the children’s best interests). I appeared on your behalf on a duty basis.

I told the Court that you wanted your matter adjourned so that we could file an Assessment Application.

The following directions were made:

1. We are to send the other parties copies of your Assessment Application by ;
2. Your matter is adjourned to  **at 9:30am to consider a Clinic Assessment**. **You must attend Court on this occasion**.

I will contact you once I have the draft Assessment Application so that we can talk about what it says.

**Your Next Court Date**

On the Court will decide whether to make an order for a clinic assessment or not.

Please contact me on (02) if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Solicitor

Encl. Report Process Flowchart