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| **Our Ref:**  | Phone: Fax:  |

**By Email:**

Dear

**Your Children's Court matter**

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

This letter is about your attendance at on .

**What You Told Me**

Before we went into Court, I talked to you about what was going to happen. You told me that:

* You had thought a lot about whether you want the children to come home;
* You decided that you need more time to work on the issues that led to the children being placed into care;
* You do not think that it would be best for to return to your care.

**What Happened in Court**

Your matter was listed before Magistrate . appeared for Community Services, appeared for , and

 appeared as the Independent Legal Representative “ILR” for

 (the ILR represents the best interests).

I told the Court that you agreed to the staying where they are until they turn 18. I told the Court you are going to work hard to address the issues that led to

 being placed into care. I said that you want to bring a Section 90 in the future.

After hearing from all the solicitors, the Magistrate made Final Orders by Consent. I have enclosed a copy of the Orders for your records.

**Final Orders**

The Final Orders that you agreed to at Court are:

1.

**Changing Orders in the Future**

I explained to you that you can make an application to change the Orders at any time in the future. There is no guarantee that the Court will let you change the Orders.

You need to show there has been a *significant* change in your circumstances, since the Orders were made. You can ask for changes to be made about the children’s living arrangements, contact and other things such as cultural planning.

The Court also looks at the following things when deciding whether to change the Orders:

*Most Important Things:*

* 1. The length of time that the children have been with their carer and whether these arrangements are stable;
	2. What would be the least intrusive intervention in the life of the children and whether that would be in their best interests;
	3. The wishes of the child or young person and how much weight these views should be given.

*Additional Things:*

* 1. Ages of the children;
	2. What you are asking for;
	3. Your plans for the children;
	4. Whether you have a good case;
	5. What the Court reports have said about how things are going.

As Final Orders have been made, your Children’s Court matter has finalised. Your file with Legal Aid NSW will be closed. You can contact Legal Aid NSW in the future if you want to change the Orders. You will need to submit a new application for legal aid.

If you have any questions about this letter or the Orders please contact me on .

Yours sincerely

**Solicitor**