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PROHIBITED STEPS AND SPECIFIC ISSUE ORDERS

GUIDANCE



What is a Prohibited Steps Order?

A Prohibited Steps Order (PSO) prevents the other party from carrying out a specific action. This could include;

- changing a child's name
- taking them out of the country without the other parties consent
- preventing a child from moving schools without the other parties consent
- stopping a child undergoing a risky medical procedure

What is a Specific Issue Order?

A Specific Issue Order (SIO) can get the court to decide on a specific matter that the parties cannot agree on involving a child. This could include;

- what school they should attend
- if they should receive their vaccinations
- if they should receive a certain type of medical treatment
- if a child should be allowed to move abroad permanently
- preventing a child have contact with a certain individual
- whether they should be raised religiously

Who can apply for a Prohibited Steps Order or a Specific Issue Order?

- As long as the child is aged under 16 years then anyone with parental responsibility, including guardians and adults who have a 'lives with order' with the child, can apply for an order.

How to apply for a Prohibited Steps Order or a Specific Issue Order?

- In order to apply to the courts a C100 form needs to be sent to the courts and a court fee paid. A short supporting statement should be attached to the application outlining what order you are seeking and why.
- In the majority of cases a mediation session will need to be attended before applying to the courts but in some cases, exemptions will apply to this rule.

How much does a Prohibited Steps Order or a Specific Issue Order cost?

- The cost of a C100 application costs £232. As a C100 can be used to apply for a child arrangements order, prohibited steps order and specific issue order which means if they are applied for at the same time then the cost will be £232. If they are applied for separately £232 needs to be paid every time a new application is issued.

How does the court decide whether to grant an order?

- The court will base granting an order on what is best for the child and their welfare and will apply the welfare checklist.
- The court will consider why the parent is seeking the application and whether there are external factors which are impacting their decision and the relevance of this upon the child.

How long will the order last?

- Usually, an order will last until the child reaches 16 years of age.
- Orders can be discharged if no longer needed or can be amended if the circumstances change, this can be done by applying to the courts again.