**Appendix 1**

**Ist Gatekeeping Appointment**

**Track A**

**FHDRA Track – safeguarding ordered 3 days before hearing**

**In The Family Court**

**Court Reference:**

**Order on Gatekeeping & Allocation**

**On an application was received regarding the above child(ren). It has been referred to the Gatekeeping team for allocation and directions upon issue in accordance with the President’s Guidance, the Schedule to the Allocation and Gatekeeping Guidance, and the Family Court (Composition and Distribution of Business) Rules 2014. The court has considered the papers in the absence of the parties or their legal representatives and the following directions apply:**

**THE COURT ORDERS**

1. The application is listed for First Hearing Dispute Resolution Appointment **at the    [          ] Family Court at                am/pm on**                      (you must **arrive at least 30 minutes before the hearing**)
   1. before Lay Justices with a time estimate of 1 hour. (A*nd upon the hearing proceeding remotely via BT Meet Me due to the Public Health Restrictions relating to Covid 19 and it being deemed appropriate in the circumstances that the hearing take place remotely by telephone).*
2. CAFCASS is directed to send a Safeguarding letter to the Court no less than 3 days prior to the FHDRA;

**COMPLIANCE**

1. No document other than a document specified in this order or sent/ delivered in accordance with the Rules or any Practice Direction shall be sent/delivered by any party without the court’s permission.
2. Any application to vary this order or for any other order is to be made to the court **on notice to all parties**.

**INFORMATION TO PARTIES**

Please note in advance of attending your hearing:

1. **At the First Hearing** Dispute Resolution Appointment (FHDRA) both parties will be asked their views regarding the application before the court and the court will explore with the parties what the most suitable arrangements for the child are. The court will attempt to resolve matters if at all possible in the time available. If a significant dispute remains at the end of the hearing the court will give directions and list a further hearing.
2. **A Cafcass officer** will be at court to assist the court as regards any welfare or safety concerns around the child(ren) arising from the application. You should have spoken to a Cafcass officer before the hearing at a telephone interview. This information is recorded and provided to the court in a short report which should also be supplied to you. If you have not heard from Cafcass or if your contact details were not on the application form, please contact Cafcass at 0300 456 4000 and quote the court reference number.
3. **Mediation** is an alternative to resolving your dispute through the courts. When completing your application, you will have been referred to the Mediation Assessment Information Meeting which is a requirement for the applicant to attend other than in particular exempted circumstances. If you have attended this meeting with the other party or, if you attended alone but have not engaged with the mediation process, the court may ask you to reconsider this as a potential way of resolving your dispute amicably. To this end there will be a mediation service available at the court on the day of your attendance. If the court deems your case appropriate for mediation you may be asked to explore this possibility with the other party and the mediator at court. A leaflet is attached setting out the services of the mediators who will be at court.
4. **Support:**
   1. If you wish to find a lawyer to represent you, a list of children’s law solicitors is available from<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/Support-services/Accreditation/documents/children-law-accredited-members-april18/>**,** and a list of children’s law barristers is available from<https://www.directaccessportal.co.uk/search/1/barrister>**;**
   2. You may seek support from the Personal Support Unit which is a charity dedicated to providing free, independent assistance to people facing proceedings without legal representation<https://www.thepsu.org/> **;**
   3. The Bar Pro Bono Unit is a charity which may be able to offer you assistance<https://www.barprobono.org.uk/>**;**
   4. Citizens Advice may also be able to offer you advice and support<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/>