



**Easy
Read**

Supporting statement guide

For a non-molestation or
occupation order

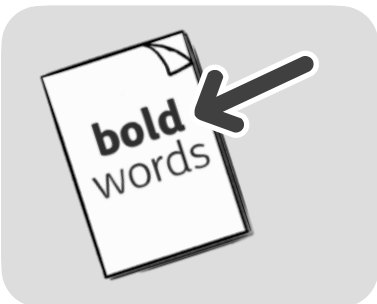
Easy Read



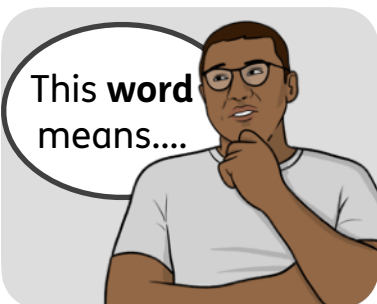
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



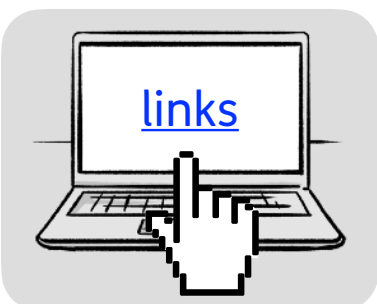
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this supporting statement



This is an Easy Read guide for writing a **supporting statement**.

A **supporting statement** is a report written by someone who is asking for a **court order**.



A **court order** stops someone from being able to do certain things.

This supporting statement guide is for people who are asking for either/both:



1. A non-molestation order - this is a court order that will protect you and any children from **abuse** by a certain person.



Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly. This is also called abusive behaviour.

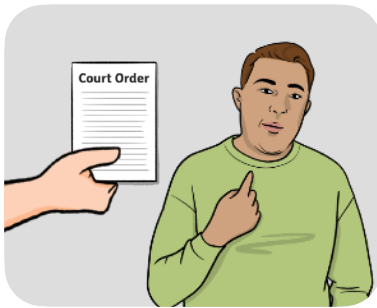


2. An occupation order - this is a court order that decides who should live in your house.

How court orders work



The person who is asking for a court order against someone is called the 'applicant'.



The person who the court order is against is called the 'respondent'.



The applicant will fill in some court order documents to explain why they want a court order, including:



- A form called an 'FL401 application form' - there is an Easy Read version of this.



- A supporting statement.

What happens next?



The respondent will be told that the applicant has asked for a court order against them.



They will be given a copy of the court order documents.

They will usually be given these by the applicant's lawyer.

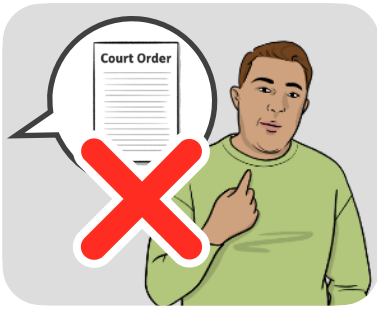


Respondents are told someone has made a court order against them so that they can prepare for the **court order hearing**.



The **court order hearing** is where a judge will decide whether the court order should go ahead or be changed.

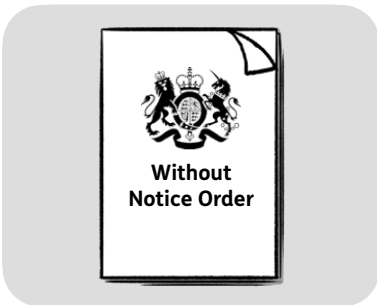
‘Without notice order’



A ‘**without notice order**’ means the respondent does not know an applicant has asked for a court order against them.



You can ask for a ‘without notice order’ in your FL401 application form.



‘Without notice orders’ are only given in very special cases, like if your life is in danger.

What is a supporting statement for?



A supporting statement is a report written by an applicant.

It gives the court extra information about the abuse the applicant has dealt with.



The extra information will help the judge make a decision at the court order hearing.



If you are applying for a non-molestation and/or an occupation order then you will need to write a supporting statement.



You can write more than 1 supporting statement if you would like.

This guide will help you.

How to write a supporting statement



You can write a supporting statement by answering questions and ticking the right boxes in this booklet.



There are 8 parts for you to fill in.



You do not have to use this booklet to write a supporting statement.

You can do it on your own if you would like to.

Exhibits



An **exhibit** is like a piece of evidence. It can be any document that supports what you have written in your supporting statement.

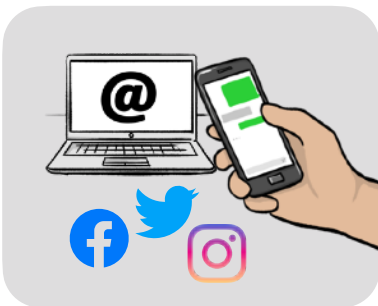
You may want to include some exhibits in your supporting statement, like:



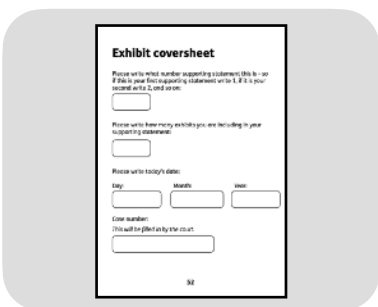
- Medical reports from when you or your children were harmed.



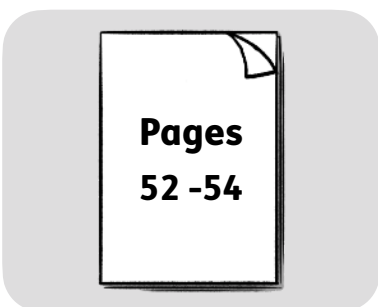
- Reports or letters from social services.



- Copies of any contact you have had with the respondent that shows their abusive behaviour, like emails, texts and social media messages.



You will need to fill in an 'exhibit coversheet' for each exhibit you want to include.



You can find the coversheet on pages 52 to 54.

Keeping your contact information secret



If you do not want the respondent to know how to contact you or your children, do not write your contact information in your supporting statement.

For the court



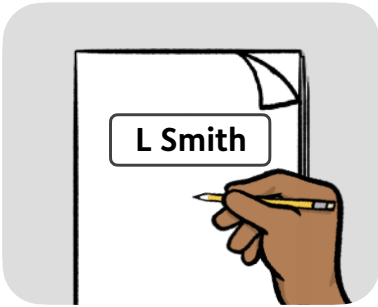
This page will be filled in by the court.

Court name:

Date issued:

Case number:

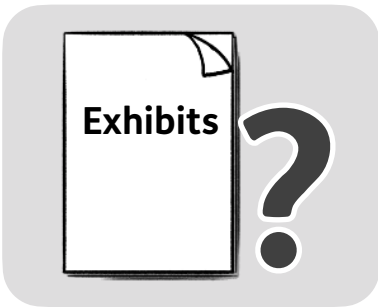
Before you start



Please write the first letter of your first name, and then your full surname:



Please write what number supporting statement this is - so if this is your first supporting statement write 1, if it is your second write 2, and so on:



Please write how many exhibits you are including in your supporting statement:



Please write today's date:

Day:

Month:

Year:



Please write your full name:

First name:

Last name:



Please write the respondent's full name:

First name:

Last name:

Your supporting statement - Part 1

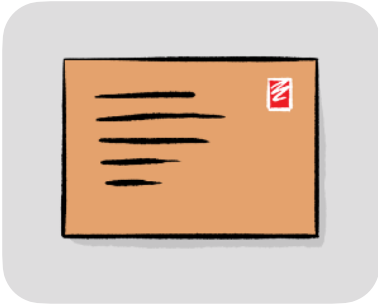


1.1: My full name is:

First name:

Middle name:

Last name:



1.2: My address is:

Building and street:

Second line of address:

Town or city:

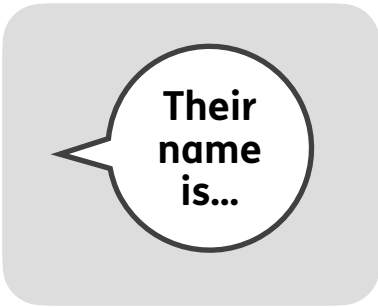
Postcode:



If you are not including this information please write 'my address is confidential'.



1.3: I am writing this supporting statement to support a non-molestation order against my...



Their full name is:

First name:

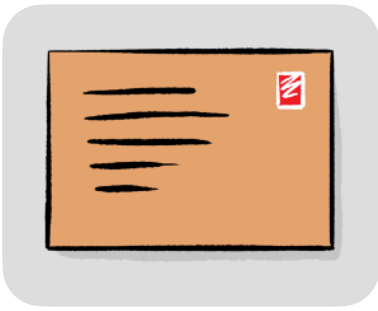
Middle name:

Last name:



I am also applying for an occupation order.

I am not applying for an occupation order - *please go to 1.6.*



1.5: The address I want the occupation order to stop the respondent from living in or going near is:

Building and street:

Second line of address:

Town or city:

Postcode:



I have given more information about this address and who lives there in my FL401 application form.



1.6: Why do you need a 'without notice order'?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box intended for a student's response to the question.

Part 2 - The respondent



2.1: I have known the respondent since:

Day:

Month:

Year:



2.2: We became a couple on or around:

Day:

Month:

Year:

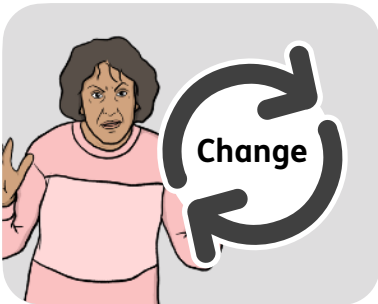
Me and the respondent were not a couple.



2.3: The respondent's behaviour has...

Changed since our relationship started.

Always been abusive - *please go to 2.5.*



2.4: I first noticed the respondent's behaviour changed on or around:

Day:

Month:

Year:



2.5: The respondent's abusive behaviours have included:

You can tick as many answers as you like.

- Physical abuse - like hitting and being violent.
- Sexual abuse - this is anything sexual that you have not agreed to.
- Verbal or emotional abuse - this is when the respondent has said things to make you feel scared, sad or bad about yourself.
- Making threats.
- Making you feel scared.
- Harassment - like not leaving you alone and always trying to contact you.
- Controlling your money.

Controlling your whole life and the decisions you make.

Online abuse.

Part 3 - Most recent case of abusive behaviour



3.1: The most recent time the respondent was abusive was on:

Day:

Month:

Year:



3.2: This case of abusive behaviour has...

Ended.

Not ended - *please go to 3.4.*



End

3.3: This case of abusive behaviour ended on:

Day:

Month:

Year:



3.4: What happened during this case of abusive behaviour?

Try to give as much information as possible about what happened.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to write their response to the question above.



3.5: How has this case of abusive behaviour affected you and your children's health and safety?



3.6: Who did you tell about these abusive behaviours?

This includes:

- *People personal to you, like family members.*
- *Professionals, like police officers.*

Part 4 - First case of abusive behaviour



First

4.1: The first time the respondent was abusive was on:

Day:

Month:

Year:



End

4.2: This case of abusive behaviour ended on:

Day:

Month:

Year:



4.3: What happened during this case of abusive behaviour?

Try to give as much information as possible about what happened.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for the user to write their response to the question above.



4.4: How has this case of abusive behaviour affected you and your children's health and safety?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box intended for the user to write their response to the question above.



4.5: Who did you tell about these abusive behaviours?

This includes:

- *People personal to you, like family members.*
- *Professionals, like police officers.*

Part 5 - The worst case of abusive behaviour

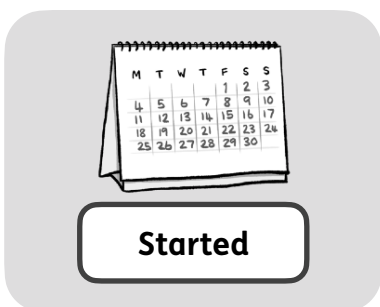


5.1: The worst time the respondent was abusive was...

The most recent case of abusive behaviour - please go to part 6.

The first case of abusive behaviour - please go to part 6.

A different case of abusive behaviour.



5.2: This case of abusive behaviour started on:

Day:

Month:

Year:



End

5.3: This case of abusive behaviour ended on:

Day:

Month:

Year:



5.4: What happened during this case of abusive behaviour?

Try to give as much information as possible about what happened.

A large, empty rounded rectangular box intended for the user to write their response to the question.



5.5: How has this case of abusive behaviour affected you and your children's health and safety?



5.6: Who did you tell about these abusive behaviours?

This includes:

- *People personal to you, like family members.*
- *Professionals, like police officers.*

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin black border, intended for a user to write their response to the question above.

Part 6 - Other abusive behaviour



6.1: I would also like the court to know about the respondent's other abusive behaviours, including:

You can use this part to tell the court about any abusive behaviour that carried on and cannot be described in just 1 case.



6.2: How have these abusive behaviours affected you and your children's health and safety?

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a black border, intended for the user to provide their response to the question above.



6.3: Who did you tell about these abusive behaviours?

This includes:

- *People personal to you, like family members.*
- *Professionals, like police officers.*

Part 7 - Occupation order



Please only fill in this part if you are applying for an occupation order.

If you are not applying for an occupation order please go on to part 8.



7.1: Me and the respondent...

Have a **mortgage** together and are both paying the money back.



A **mortgage** is when you borrow money from an organisation, usually a bank or housing organisation, to help you buy a house.

You have to pay this money back.

Rent a house together and are both paying rent.

- Do not have a mortgage together, I am the only one paying the money back.
- Do not have a mortgage together, the respondent is the only one paying the money back.
- Do not rent a house together, I am the only one paying rent.
- Do not rent a house together, the respondent is the only one paying rent.
- Do not have a mortgage or rent a together.



7.2: What are your housing needs?

You should include information about what you need from a house, like:

- *The number of bedrooms.*
- *Being close to your children's school.*



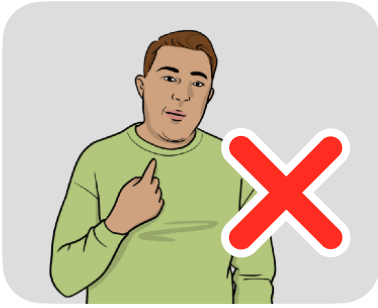
7.3: What are the respondent's housing needs?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for the respondent's answer to the question above.



7.4: What are you worried might happen if you do not get this non-molestation and/or occupation order?

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to write their response to the question above.



7.5: I am asking for a court order to make sure that the respondent shall not...

Live at the address I have given in this supporting statement.

Enter or try to enter the address I have given in this supporting statement.

Go near the address I have given in this supporting statement.



7.6: I am also asking that the respondent can be arrested if they...

Do any of the above things.

Do some of the above things, they are:

If you do not want the respondent to be arrested then please leave this blank.

Part 8 - End comments



8.1: Please write your final end comments:

In this part you can write out the reasons you are applying for a non-molestation and/or occupation order.

Telling the truth

Please tick here to show that you believe that everything you have written in this supporting statement is true.

Please sign your name here:

Please tick here to show that you, the applicant, have signed this supporting statement.



Please write the date this form was signed:

Day:

Month:

Year:

Exhibit coversheet

Please write what number supporting statement this is - so if this is your first supporting statement write 1, if it is your second write 2, and so on:

Please write how many exhibits you are including in your supporting statement:

Please write today's date:

Day:

Month:

Year:

Case number:

This will be filled in by the court.

Please write the name of the court that is dealing with your court order:

Please write your full name:

Please write the respondent's full name:

Please attach this coversheet to your exhibit when you send your court order documents or take them to court with you.

Sending your court order documents



You now need to send your supporting statement, and other court order documents, to your local family court.

What to send



You need to send this supporting statement with your other court order documents, including:

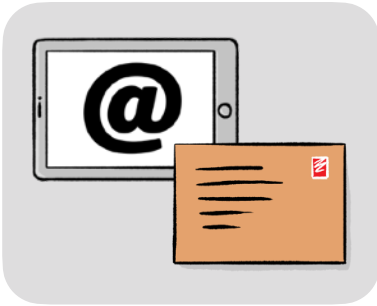


- Your FL401 application form.
- Any other forms the application form told you to fill in.



- **A supporting witness statement.**
A **supporting witness statement** is a report written by someone who can support your need to have a non-molestation or occupation order.

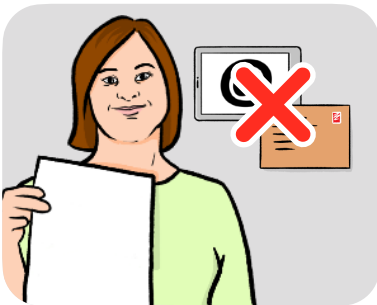
How to send



You can email or post your court order documents to your local family court.



You can find your local family court's email address and postal address at: www.gov.uk/find-court-tribunal

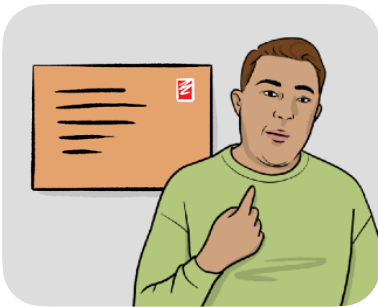


You can take your court order documents there in person if you cannot email or post them.



There is more information about sending your court order documents in your FL401 application form.

What happens next?



Once your local family court has your court order documents, copies of them will be given to the respondent.



This is unless a 'without notice order' is allowed.



Remember, you must not give the respondent copies of the court documents yourself.

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