

Welfare Checklist

In any proceedings concerning children the child's best interests are paramount and the court must consider the following, known as the welfare checklist:

- a) the ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child concerned (considered in the light of his/her age and understanding);
- b) his/her physical, emotional and educational needs;
- c) the likely effect on him/her of any change in his circumstances;
- d) his/her age, sex, background and any characteristics of his/hers which the court considers relevant;
- e) any harm which he/she has suffered or is at risk of suffering;
- f) how capable each of his/her parents, and any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant, is of meeting his/her needs;
- g) the range of powers available to the court under this Act in the proceedings in question.