

What is a negotiated placement agreement?

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A negotiated placement agreement is a written agreement between the parent(s) of a child and the Director General of the Department for Community Development. It involves the Department arranging placement for the child. The parent(s) retain parental responsibility for their child.

In certain circumstances, one parent of a child can enter into a negotiated placement agreement with the Department without the involvement of the other parent. Examples of these circumstances include situations where the second parent cannot be found after reasonable inquiries, or if the second parent does not have ongoing contact with the child.

Under what circumstances can a negotiated placement agreement be used?

This agreement is entered into when the parent(s) are temporarily unable to care for the child. The Department for Community Development must consider any views expressed by the child in deciding whether to enter into, extend or terminate a negotiated placement agreement.

A negotiated placement agreement cannot be entered into or extended if there are reasonable grounds to believe a child is in need of protection. A child is in need of protection if he/she has been abandoned, their parents are deceased, or if the child has been significantly harmed or neglected, or is at risk of being harmed or neglected, and the child's parents are unable or unlikely to protect them.

How long is a negotiated placement agreement valid?

A negotiated placement agreement is valid for the period specified in the agreement, and can be extended.

How can a negotiated placement agreement be cancelled?

A parent of the child may end a negotiated placement agreement whether they were a party to the original agreement or not. The Department can also end a negotiated placement agreement. The agreement can be cancelled at any time by giving written notice to the parties of the agreement.