

DO I HAVE A SAY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS?

During the process of making an EPO the Trust have to talk to you about how you feel and give you a chance to tell your story.



This leaflet is based on information contained in The Children (NI) Order 1995, Guidance and Regulations Vol 1 'Court Orders and Other Legal Issues'.

ARE YOU CONFUSED OR STILL NOT SURE?

If you are uncertain about any aspect of this leaflet, or want some extra support, you can ask for an **Advocate** from VOYPIC and they will be happy to help you.

HOW DO I GET AN ADVOCATE?

- Ring 08450 742 942 and ask for the Advocacy Service or email advocacy@voypic.org
- You will talk to the Duty Advocate. They can offer you help and advice there and then
- If you need to meet someone for further support, they will put you in touch with an Advocate in your area
- It is that easy! Our Duty Advocates are there for you 9.30am-5.30pm, Monday to Thursday and 9.30am – 4.30pm on Friday



ADVOCACY LINE: 08450 742 942

9-11 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1JG
Tel: 02890 244 888 Fax: 02890 240 679
E-mail: advocacy@voypic.org
Website: www.voypic.org



PLEASE NOTE THE INFORMATION ON THIS LEAFLET WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

**YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO
EMERGENCY
PROTECTION
ORDERS**

THIS LEAFLET IS DESIGNED TO MAKE EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDERS (EPO'S) EASIER FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN EPO?

Trusts (Social Services) have to investigate when they think that you aren't being looked after properly. Emergency Protection Orders, called EPO's for short, are used to protect children and young people at **RISK**, where **URGENT** action is needed. The Trust will apply to the court and tell the judge why they feel you are at risk of harm. The judge will then decide whether or not to issue an EPO.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF AN EPO?

When an EPO is made, the Trust feel that they have to take you out of your family home in order to keep you safe. An EPO can also be made to keep you in a safe place e.g. hospital.



HOW CAN I STOP AN EPO?

Immediately after the order has been made, you (or your parents or someone you were living with before the EPO was made) can ask the court to end the EPO. However, you must be able to prove to the court that your situation has now changed and that you will be safe and well cared for.

HOW LONG DOES AN EPO LAST FOR?

An EPO lasts for 8 days, however it can be extended for a further 7 days if this is needed in order to keep you **SAFE**.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR AN EPO?

Anyone can apply for an EPO. However they can't do this on their own, they must contact the Trust first.

The Police also have the power to take a young person into Police Protection for up to 72 hours.