

Final Hearing (FH)

Unless it has been possible for things to be agreed or for the court to make a final decision at an earlier stage, decisions about your child's future will be made at this hearing. You will be represented by your solicitor or by a barrister (a lawyer who specialises in representing people at court) that your solicitor has arranged.

At the final hearing, the court will have all the relevant paperwork about the case. This will include statements from everyone involved in the case, assessment reports and the final care plan for your child. The court will use all of this information (evidence) to make its decisions about:

- Where your child lives
- Who your child should see
- And whether any kind of court order is needed to put those arrangements in place.

The court will usually also need to hear evidence from witnesses who can be asked questions and explain their point of view or recommendations. You might also have to speak in court and answer questions. Your solicitor and barrister will let you know if this is going to happen and explain what is involved.