

Soc. Serv. Law §§ 358-a, 384,
384-a, 384-c

Form 358-a- 1
(Petition for
Approval of a Placement
Instrument)
2/2001

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF

.....
In the Matter of the Application for
Approval of an Instrument concerning

Docket No.

PETITION FOR
APPROVAL OF
A PLACEMENT
INSTRUMENT

Pursuant to Section 358-A of the
Social Services Law
.....

**NOTICE: PLACING YOUR CHILD IN FOSTER CARE MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF
YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF YOUR CHILD STAYS IN FOSTER
CARE FOR 15 OF THE MOST RECENT 22 MONTHS, THE AGENCY MAY BE
REQUIRED BY LAW TO FILE A PETITION TO TERMINATE YOUR
PARENTAL RIGHTS AND MAY FILE BEFORE THE END OF THE 15-MONTH
PERIOD.**

TO THE FAMILY COURT:

The undersigned Petitioner respectfully alleges upon information and belief:

1. The Petitioner is authorized to file this petition in that (s)he is an official of the Department
of Social Services for [specify]: County having (his)(her) office and place of
business at [specify]:

2. a . The above-named child is a ? male ? female , who was born on [specify]:

b. The names and addresses of the birth parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the child are as
follows:

Name

Address

3. On [specify date]: [specify]: , the child was removed from the home of
[specify]: , pursuant to a written instrument executed pursuant

to Social Services Law [check applicable box]: 384 384-a(1) 384-a(2)(h)¹ on [specify date]:

by [specify who executed the instrument and relationship(s) to child]:

A copy of the instrument is attached to this petition.

4. (Upon information and belief) The child now resides at [specify]:
and is likely to remain in the care and custody of the Department of Social Services for a period in excess of thirty (30) consecutive days.

5. (Upon information and belief) [Specify name(s)]:
voluntarily executed the attached instrument because (he)(she) (they) (is)(are) unable to make adequate provision for the care, maintenance and supervision of the child in (his)(her)(their) own home for the reasons that [specify]:

6. (Upon information and belief) Continuation of the child in, or return of the child to, the child's home would be contrary to the best interests of the child because [specify facts and reasons]:

This conclusion is supported by the following information [check applicable box(es)]:

- Uniform Case Review, dated [specify]:
- Summary of the Uniform Case Record, dated [specify]:
- Service Plan, dated [specify]:
- The report of [specify]: , dated [specify]:
- Other [specify]:

7. a. Reasonable efforts, where appropriate, to prevent or eliminate the need for placement, and, if the child was removed prior to the date of the hearing, to return the child home safely [check applicable box and state reasons as indicated]:

- were made as follows [specify]:
- were not made but the lack of efforts was appropriate [check all applicable boxes]:
 - because of a prior judicial finding that the authorized agency was not required to make reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the parent(s) guardian(s) [specify date of finding]:
 - because [specify other reasons]:
- were not made.

¹ A standby placement instrument lasting up to one year in duration, previously approved by the Court, pursuant to Social Services Law §358-a(2)(h)(iii), may provide that the child be transferred into foster care upon the death, debilitation or incapacitation of the parent or legal guardian. See Forms 358-a-6 and 358-a-7. Once the transfer takes place, the status of the child must be reviewed using this form, pursuant to Social Services Law §358-a, and the required “best interests” and “reasonable efforts” findings must be made.

This assertion is based upon the following information [check applicable box(es)]:

- ? Uniform Case Review, dated [specify]:
- ? Summary of the Uniform Case Record, dated [specify]:
- ? Service Plan, dated [specify]:
- ? The report of [specify]: , dated [specify]:
- ? Other [specify]:

b . [Applicable in cases in which the child's permanency plan is adoption, guardianship or permanent living arrangement other than reunification]: Reasonable efforts to make and finalize the permanency plan of [specify]:

Q were made as follows [specify]:

Q were not made based upon the following facts and for the following reasons [specify]:

This assertion is based upon the following information [check applicable box(es)]:

- ? Uniform Case Review, dated [specify]:
- ? Summary of the Uniform Case Record, dated [specify]:
- ? Service Plan, dated [specify]:
- ? The report of [specify]: , dated [specify]:
- ? Other [specify]:

c. The following impediments exist, if any, to the fulfillment of the child's permanency plan [specify, indicating documentary sources of information, if any]:

8. The permanency plan for the child is as follows:

- ? reunification with the ? parent(s) ? guardian(s) by [specify date]:
- ? placement for adoption upon filing of a petition to terminate parental rights by [specify date]:
- ? referral for legal guardianship by [specify name and date]:
- ? permanent placement with the following fit and willing relative [specify name]:
by [specify date]:
- ? permanent placement in the following alternative planned living arrangement [specify]:

upon documentation, available to the Court, that the following compelling reason(s) indicate(s) that it would not be in the child's best interests to return home, be referred for termination of parental rights and adoption, placed with a fit and willing relative, or placed with a legal guardian [specify compelling reason(s)]:

9. [Required where child is 16 years of age or older]: (Upon information and belief) The services needed, if any, to assist the child to make the transition from foster care to independent living are [specify]:

10. [Applicable where transfer was made pursuant to section 384-a of the Social Services Law] (Upon information and belief) Care and custody of the child has been transferred to the Department of Social Services by means of an instrument executed pursuant to section 384-a of the Social Services Law, and all of the requirements of such section have been satisfied.

11. [Applicable where transfer was made pursuant to section 384-a of the Social Services Law and where waiver was signed]: (Upon information and belief) Pursuant to the attached instrument, [specify]: (has) (have) consented to the jurisdiction of the Family Court over this proceeding and (has)(have) waived service of the petition and notice of this proceeding.)

12. (Upon information and belief) The names and last-known addresses of the child's parents and all other persons required to be given notice of this proceeding pursuant to sections 358-a and 384-c of the Social Services Law are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
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and there are no persons other than those set forth who are entitled to notice.

13. The visitation plan(s) for the child and the Q parent(s) Q guardian(s) (is)(are) as follows [describe plan(s)]:

14. a. The child has the following sibling(s) or half-sibling(s) [specify, including date of birth and whether in foster care]:

b. The child Q is Q is not placed together with such sibling(s) or half-sibling(s) for the following reason(s) [specify reasons not placed together; if placement together is under investigation, so indicate]:

c. [Applicable where child and siblings or half-siblings are not placed together]:
The visitation plan(s) for the child and (his)(her) sibling(s) or half-sibling(s) (is)(are) as follows [describe plan(s)]:

15. a. A visitation order regarding the following non-custodial parents and grandparents Q is Q is not incorporated into the placement instrument pursuant to Social Services Law §384-a(2)(d) for the following reason(s) [specify reason(s) if visitation order is not incorporated]:

b. The above-named non-custodial parent(s) and grandparent(s) Q are Q are not the subject of an indicated report, as such term is defined in Section 412 of the Social Services Law, filed with the statewide register of child abuse and maltreatment pursuant to Title Six of Article Six of the Social Services Law. If so, specify date, status and circumstances to the extent known:

c. The above-named non-custodial parent(s) and grandparent(s) **Q** are **Q** are not the subject(s) of or the respondent(s) in a child protective proceeding commenced under Article Ten of the Family Court Act. If so, specify whether the proceeding resulted in an order finding that the child is an abused or neglected child, date and status to the extent known:

16. The child **Q** is **Q** is not a Native-American child subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. §§ 1901-1963).

17. No previous application has been made to any court or judge for the relief requested herein, (except [specify]:
).

WHEREFORE, Petitioner requests:

A. That process be served on those entitled thereto in accordance with sections 358-a or 384-c of the Social Services Law; and

B. That pending any hearing that the Family Court may require, a temporary order be made approving the transfer of custody and care of the child to the Social Services official of _____ County, pursuant to section 358-a of the Social Services Law; and

C. That the Court enter a final order granting the petition approving the annexed instrument and approving the transfer of custody and care to the Social Services official of [specify]:
_____ County;

D. That the Court enter an order describing the above visitation plans for the child and (his)(her) parent(s) or guardian(s) and for the child and (his)(her) sibling(s) or half-sibling(s);

E. That the (parent)(guardian) be notified of the planning conference(s) to be held, of (his)(her) right to attend such conference(s) and of (his)(her) right to attend with counsel or other person;

F. That the (parent)(guardian) be given a copy of this Court's order and service plan;

G. That if the child remains in foster care, the Petitioner must file a petition for a permanency hearing not later than [specify date 60 days prior to the date permanency hearing must be completed]:²

H. That the Court grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated:

² See *Uniform Rules of the Family Court*, 22 N.Y.C.R.R. §205.17(b).

Signature of Petitioner

Title

Print or type name

Signature of Attorney, if any

Attorney's Name (Print or Type)

Attorney's Address and Telephone Number