

Regulation 44 Visit Checklist

A practical, Ofsted-aligned checklist for children's homes in England

Use this checklist to prepare for, conduct and follow up the monthly independent (Regulation 44) visit. It is a practical aid for registered managers and independent persons — always refer to The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015, the Quality Standards and current Ofsted guidance.

Before the visit

- ☐ Visit is scheduled within the calendar month (timing varied across months)
- ☐ Independent person is genuinely independent and free of conflict of interest
- ☐ Enhanced DBS, references and employment checks are in place and current
- ☐ Previous visit's report and action plan are available to review
- ☐ Most recent Ofsted report and any actions are available
- ☐ Daily logs, incident, complaints, sanctions and restraint records are up to date

During the visit

- ☐ Premises inspected — bedrooms, communal areas and outdoor spaces
- ☐ Children and young people offered a private conversation about their views and feelings
- ☐ Staff and relevant managers interviewed privately
- ☐ Care and staff practice observed
- ☐ Key records reviewed and triangulated (incident traced through daily log and child's records)
- ☐ Regulation 45 review and registered manager's monthly checks confirmed as completed
- ☐ Progress on previous actions and Ofsted recommendations reviewed
- ☐ Any urgent safeguarding concern raised directly with the registered manager at the time

The report

- ☐ Assesses performance against the Quality Standards with clear analysis, not just description
- ☐ Distinguishes fact from professional opinion
- ☐ Children referred to by initials only
- ☐ Significant concerns checked with the registered manager; factual disputes resolved before finalising

- ☐ Includes an action plan that can be followed up next month
- ☐ Shared with registered manager, responsible individual, and Ofsted
- ☐ Submitted to Ofsted promptly (with the home's correct URN)

After the visit

- ☐ Actions assigned with owners and target dates
- ☐ Actions added to the rolling log to be checked at the next visit
- ☐ Report filed and easily retrievable for inspection

Keep every Reg 44 visit inspection-ready

OVcare keeps daily logs, incidents, sanctions, restraint records and monthly checks in one place — so evidence is easy to find, triangulate and follow up. Book a free demo at ovcare.co.uk/demo

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