This chapter examines the role of local authorities in protecting the child from harm and the orders available under the Children Act 1989, which are used in cases of alleged harm to children. It explains the nature of public child law proceedings and goes into detail to discuss the definition of the ‘threshold criteria’—the standard that the court uses to decide whether an order should be made. It also discusses the investigations which can be carried out by the local authority in relation to a child and parental contact with children in care, and compares a care order and a supervision order.
29. Children in Local Authority Care

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