Context, authority and evidence templates

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Three one-page templates. Fill them in before the agent is given authority, not afterwards when someone is asking. Each is deliberately short: a template nobody completes is worth less than a rough one everybody does.

> Drafted for the companion material of *The Contextual Agentic Enterprise*. These are working documents, not a control framework, and they map to no certification scheme.

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1. Context specification

What the agent is allowed to know, where that comes from, and how you know it is true.

Agent	
Task	
Principal it acts for	

Sources. For each: what it is, who owns it, how fresh it is guaranteed to be, and what happens when it is stale.

Source	Owner	Freshness guarantee	Behaviour when stale

Entitlement filtering. How context is narrowed to what the principal could see themselves:

Content treated as data, not instructions. The test that proves it, and where it runs:

Recorded with each decision. Which source identifiers appear in the evidence record:

What this agent must never see. Be specific; "sensitive data" is not an answer:

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2. Authority grant

What the agent may do, on whose authority, and how to take it away.

Principal	
Granted by (a person, named)	
Granted on / expires	
Review due	

Scopes. The actions granted. Anything not listed is refused.

Scope	Resources	Limit	Irreversible?	Compensating action

Autonomous limit. Above this the agent may prepare but not act:

Escalates to. A named role, and what happens if they do not answer (the answer is: it stays held):

Enforced by. The component that decides — which must not be the model:

Second boundary. The independent mechanism that also stops it:

Revocation. The exact procedure, and the date it was last rehearsed:

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3. Evidence specification

What gets recorded, where it goes, and what argument it is meant to support.

The question this evidence answers. Write the question a reviewer will actually ask:

Recorded at each decision:

- [ ] The action proposed, and by which principal
- [ ] Each control evaluated, and its outcome — including the ones that passed
- [ ] The grant relied on
- [ ] The context sources used
- [ ] The policy-set version, so the decision can be re-evaluated
- [ ] The outcome, including refusals and holds
- [ ] Who approved, when, and what they were shown

Written on refusal paths? If no, stop and fix that first:

Storage. Where, with what retention, and why that retention:

Tamper evidence. Retention lock, append-only, or a hash chain — and the verification that has actually been run:

Replay. Can a past decision be re-evaluated from the record and produce the same outcome? What was replayed, and when:

Who reads this. If the answer is nobody, the record is a cost with no benefit:

Purpose and professional-use notice

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The material is educational. It is intended to support informed thinking, better questions, stronger design decisions and meaningful professional work. It is not a ready-made solution for every organisation or situation.

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