



Special Guardianship Orders

**Information for children
and young people**



**Staffordshire
County Council**

fosterwithstaffordshire.co.uk/kinship

What is a Special Guardianship Order?

If the court decides you can't live with your family anymore, they might put a Special Guardianship Order in place. This means you'll live with a special guardian, who will look after you and help you.

Special guardians must be over the age of 18 and have an existing - or possible - relationship with you.

This could be:



A grandparent



An aunt or uncle



A brother
or sister



Another relative



A family friend



A neighbour



A foster carer
(as long as they aren't
related to you)

Special Guardianship Orders last until you turn 18.

Special Guardianship Order support

If a Special Guardianship Order is made by the court, you will have a support plan that tells you and your family what help is on offer.

The support could include money for your special guardians, advice about the time you spend with your parents, and information

to help you understand your life story.

If you need any additional help, then we will meet with you and you and your special guardian to review your support plan.

Parental responsibility and Special Guardianship Orders

When a Special Guardianship Order is made, the special guardians are given parental responsibility for you. This means your special guardian will be responsible for looking after you day-to-day and making important decisions.

Your birth parent - or parents - will still have some parental responsibility. If there's a disagreement between your birth parent and your special guardian, your special guardian will have the final say.

This is because they have the most parental responsibility for you.

There are situations when your special guardian will have to get your birth parent's permission.

These include:



Taking you out of the country for more than three months



Changing your surname



Get in touch

We know it's not always easy to understand why certain decisions have been made, or what they mean for you and your family.

If you have any questions or need any support, please speak to your carer/guardian, social worker or family practitioner.

You can also get in touch with our Special Guardian Post Order Duty Team on:

Call: 01785 895 950

(Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 5pm or Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm)

Email: sgosupportteam@staffordshire.gov.uk