

Special Guardianship Orders

Information for Children and Young People

What is a Special Guardianship Order?

Special Guardianship Order (SGO) are orders made by the Court, which name a Guardian who will have responsibility for you until you reach the age of 18 years. If you live with a Special Guardian this means you are no longer looked after (in care). Your Special Guardian must be over the age of 18 years and should have an existing or possible relationship with you, for example: • Grandparents • Aunt/Uncle • Brother/sister • Other relatives • Family friend • Neighbour • Unrelated foster carer



What is a Special Guardianship Order?

An SGO is made when the local authority and Court have decided that you cannot live with your Birth Parent/s on a permanent basis. You will live with your Special Guardian until you are 18 years old. SGO means you are not looked after (in care) and a social worker will no longer be involved to have meetings about your care plan. When the SGO is made you will also have a support plan. The support offered may include financial support to your Special Guardian, advice around time with you Birth Parent/s and talking support to help you understand your lifestory. Your SGO support plan will be reviewed every year by a social worker from the SGO team.

Contact us

If you or your Special Guardian have questions about support then you can contact the Social Workers in the SGO team.

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to make a difference

Staffordshire
County Council

Parental Responsibility and SGO

When a SGO is made by the courts the Special Guardian gains legal parental responsibility for you. This means your Special Guardian will control the 'day to day' care and decision making for you, although your Birth Parent/s still retain some parental responsibility. If there is conflict between your Birth Parent/s and your Special Guardian, then the views of your Special Guardian's are considered to be more important. For some decisions your Special Guardian must consult with your Birth Parents. These include: • Taking you out of the country for more than three months • Changing your surname.

Duty Number for Special Guardians

01785 895950

Mon-Thur 8:30am - 5pm

Fri 8:30am - 4.30pm

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