



Special Guardianship Orders

Assessment process



1 Initial Enquiry – The process begins with a telephone enquiry. During this call, you will receive information about what an SGO is, what it means for you and the child, and what the assessment process involves. You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss your current situation.



2 Home Visit – A social worker will arrange a visit to your home. This is to assess the suitability of your accommodation and understand your current family dynamics. The visit helps the Local Authority determine whether your home environment is safe, stable, and appropriate for the child.



3 Checks – You'll be asked to provide identification documents. The Local Authority will carry out a range of checks, including a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.



4 SGO Assessment – A comprehensive assessment will be conducted by a qualified social worker. This includes:

- exploring your relationship with the child;
- understanding your parenting capacity;
- reviewing your support network; and
- considering the child's needs and how you can meet them long-term.

The assessment will be documented in a formal report.



5 Training – Training will be recommended as part of ongoing support. These sessions may cover topics such as:

- understanding trauma and attachment;
- managing challenging behaviour;
- navigating the legal responsibilities of being a Special Guardian; and
- accessing support services.



6 SGO Support Plan – If the SGO is granted, a tailored support plan will be developed. This outlines:

- the types of support available to you (financial, practical, emotional);
- how to access services; and
- any ongoing involvement from the Local Authority.



7 Reviews – The Local Authority will conduct annual reviews to ensure the support plan remains relevant and that the child's needs are being met. These reviews are also an opportunity to raise any concerns or request additional support.



8 Support – As a Special Guardian, you are encouraged to reach out for support when needed. This could include:

- advice and guidance;
- access to therapeutic services;
- peer support groups.