**Information about Special guardianship orders**

An SGO is a court order which:

 Secures a child’s home with someone who is not their parent, on a long term basis and

 Gives parental responsibility to that person.

We want to make the application process as straightforward and stress free as possible. However you will need to complete application forms and send them to the court. We attach a leaflet prepared by the court about special guardianship. It contains lots of information about how to make an application and who needs to be a party to the case. However as you will see it is quite a complicated area of law and the best thing you can do is to take up the offer of legal advice.

We would like to help you decide if you wish to apply to be a special guardian by giving you £200 which will pay for some initial legal advice. We attach a list of solicitors who specialise in work involving children. If you take this leaflet with them they will contact us at

Legal Services Team

Plough Lane Offices

Plough Lane

Hereford HR4 OLE

Direct dial: 01432 261892

Mobile 07712 711798

DX: 135296 Hereford 3

**Secure email** [**legalassistants@herefordshire.gcsx.gov.uk**](mailto:legalassistants@herefordshire.gcsx.gov.uk)

to get more information about the case,

The court does not normally make the order at the first hearing. It usually sets out a timetable for the filing of reports.

There is lots of information online and you may find the following websites helpful.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/fostering-adoption-kinshipcare/special-guardianship-orders/>

<https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/special-guardianship/>

<http://www.frg.org.uk/images/Advice_Sheets/19-special-guardianship-diy-sg.pdf>

<https://www.frg.org.uk/images/Advice_Sheets/20%20-special-guardianship-for-birth-parents.pdf>