**SGO – Initial information template: for prospective Special Guardian’s and**

**Connected Person’s/viability assessments**

**Name of Child/Children:**

**Name of proposed carer/s:**

**It is the primary aim of Children’s Services to place children with family carers and friends where possible, when their parents are not able to care for them. This questionnaire will be used to obtain important information about you, your partner, family and lifestyle to assist with the assessment process.**

**You have been put forward to care for a child/ren whose parents are not in a position to care for them at this current time. In order to assess your suitability to care for the child/ren we need further information. Please fill out the questions as accurately as possible. This questionnaire forms the initial information gathering part of the assessment. The information you provide will highlight any strengths, vulnerabilities or risk factors, which may need to be further assessed in greater detail.**

**If this form is not returned to the agreed social work office within 10 days and you do not make the request for additional time to fill in this document, it will be presumed that you do not wish to progress with the assessment.**

(Applied assessment model: Framework for the assessment of children in need and their families DOH)

**Family Information**

1. **Who lives with you in your household?** (please provide full names, including aliases, ages and dates of birth)

**Family and Environmental Factors:**

1. **Please provide you and your partner’s (if you are currently in a relationship) address history for the past ten years.** (Full address and postcode and years lived at the address/s.)
2. **Please provide the details of a minimum of three people who can provide a reference for you.** (This should include at least two family member and one friend’s full names, addresses and contact telephone numbers.)
3. **Who are the relatives/friends you see on a regular basis?** (How often do you speak with them/see them? Have you relied upon them for ongoing support and if so what type of support?)
4. **What contact/relationship have you had with the child/ren you wish to care for?** (How often have you seen them or spoken to them? If there has been no contact and you do not have an established relationship with the children, please explain why.)
5. **What contact/relationship have you had with the parents of child/ren you wish to be assessed to care for?** (How often have you seen the parents or spoken to them? If there has been no contact and you do not have an established relationship, please explain why.)
6. **If there are other children already living in your household, how do you think they will adapt to another child living in their family home? How to you think such a change will affect them?**
7. **Are you aware if you practice, or follow an alternative religion to the child/ren who you are proposing to care for? Is your first language the same language of the child you are proposing to care for?**
8. **What pets currently live in your family household? What is their type and breed?**

**Parenting Capacity**

1. **What is your understanding of the risks and concerns about the parents of the child/ren you are proposing to care for?**
2. **Have you or your immediate family had any involvement with any Local Authority/ Children’s Services?** (Has an assessment of your family ever been undertaken by any Local Authority/Children’s Services or have your children ever been subject to child protection plans or child in need plans?)
3. **Health: Do you or your partner have an ongoing health condition which may impact on your ability to care for children? Are you/ or your partner taking any prescription medication? Have you/or your partner ever had any treatment for mental health issues/ illicit drug use or alcohol misuse?** (If yes, what were the nature of the health issues and what was the approximate date when you received treatment for such conditions?)
4. **What has motivated you to make the decision to want to care for the child/ren who you are proposing to care for?**
5. **Have you or your partner have any criminal conviction warnings or cautions?**
6. **Employment: Are you or your partner employed on a full-time or part-time basis or are you unemployed? Financial Support is means tested, so would caring for more children impact on your family finances?**
7. **Do you have any hobbies/family commitments or any other activity which may impact upon your ability to care for a child?**

**Childs Developmental needs**

1. **How will you make the child/ren you are proposing to care for feel welcome in your home?**
2. **Do you anticipate the child/ren you are proposing to care for will have any additional needs, emotional issues or problems? If so, how will you manage such challenges and what support do you think would assist?**
3. **Housing – what type of property do you currently live in, ie house/flat etc? How many bedrooms does this property have? Do you think overcrowding will be a problem?**
4. **Education – have you considered school and nursery provision? Where would the children attend school? What other local amenities/services could you access in your local area for support?**
5. **Do you anticipate that there will be any problems with the child/ren spending time with any of their family members? How do you think problems can be resolved?**