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| **Special Guardianship Orders****Post Order Support Guide****for Young People** |

**Talking about Special Guardianship Orders**

Before the Order was made you might have been given lots of information about what was happening which may have answered some of the questions you had at the time.

As you get older you might feel there are still things that you are unsure about and you might want to know more. Or, you might think of things that you have not asked about before.



A support plan for you and your Special Guardian was agreed when the Order was made. If you have not seen or know about your plan, your Special Guardian(s) will be able to talk to you about this.

Your plan will have thought about what support you and your Special Guardian(s) might have needed at the time the Order was made and as you grow up. As time goes by, things might change for you and you have questions about your plan or need different support.

Here are some of the things that you might want to know more about now.

**Your life from birth up until now**

The Order might have been made when you were very young and as you get older there may be things about you, your family or your earlier childhood that you do not fully understand or want to know more about.

Sometimes your Special Guardian(s) can help answer any questions or this information may be in your life story book.



If you still want to know more about what happened to you and what decisions were made for you, you can talk to a Worker who will find the extra information that you want.

Sometimes the information may be difficult to hear, so the Worker will talk to you about the best way to help you work out your feelings.

You might want to know how long the Order has been made for and who can make any changes to the Order. The Order was made to follow you from childhood to becoming an adult, aged 18. Only a Court can make changes to the Order. If you think that the Order is not working for you, then it is important for you to talk to a Social Worker.

**Contact**

Arrangements for your contact with your parents and family members were made when the Order was made. This was about the people who were important to you at the time. The plans for this are in your support plan.

Contact can take place in different ways, meeting up, through cards and letters and sometimes phone calls. For some children and young people contact does not take place at all because the grown-ups think it is not safe for you.

Your contact plans might change as you get older and can be explained to you by your Special Guardian(s).



**What happens if you do not see or hear from your parents and family and you would like to?**

The first thing is to talk to your Special Guardian(s) who will talk with a Social Worker to make a plan of what should happen next for you.

It might be that a Worker will need to visit you and your Special Guardian(s) to talk about what you would like to happen.

The Worker will then look into this which sometimes may take a while (some people they need to talk with might not easy to contact).

What you and your Special Guardian(s) think about this will always be listened to and thought about when making any new contact plans.

There are times when it is not possible or safe for you to have the contact with the family members you want to; the reason for this will be explained to you.



**What if you are having contact and you don’t want to?**

Sometimes as you get older your feelings about having contact with people in your family might change. You might not want to see some of the people anymore; it is ok to say this and your Special Guardians will listen to what you think.

You can talk to your Special Guardian(s) about any contact arrangement, who can agree a plan with you and your workers. Sometimes your Special Guardian(s) might want to contact a Worker for help with this.

**Other Support Available**

As you get older, you might feel that you need help and advice about things that are happening in your life. This might be because of difficulties with things that might be happening at home or in school. Sometimes how you feel about your Special Guardians might change.

You can get help and support in the local area where you live, you and your Special Guardian(s), which you can ask the Social Worker to help with at any time. All contact numbers can be found at the back of this guide.

This support can be talking with a Worker either on the telephone or seeing them at your home or somewhere like school.



There is a lot of support available and the worker will always try and help you sort out a problem.

**Your views are important to us?**

You can tell your Special Guardians, a Social Worker or a trusted person if you think the plan for you is working well. If you don’t think that the plan is working for you, then you need to tell your Special Guardians, a Social Worker or a trusted person. These people will want to know your ideas about how your plan would work better for you.



It might be that you want your comments to go directly to the Complaints team. The contact details are at the end of this guide.

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| **Your notes or questions**  |

**Other useful contact numbers;**

**The Special Guardianship (Amendment) Regulations 2016**

(http://www.legislaion.gov.uk/uksi/2016/111/made)

**Explanatory Memorandum and the Amendment Regulations**

**(http://www.legislaion.gov.uk/id/uksi/2016/111)**

**The Children's Commissioner for England**

The Children's Commissioner for England promotes and protects children's rights in England. The Commissioner does this by listening to what children and young people say about what matters to them and by making sure adults in charge take their views and interests into account. Contact details are:

**The Office of the Children's Commissioner**

**Sanctuary Buildings**

**20 Great Smith Street**

**London**

**SW1P 3BT**

**Tel: 020 7783 8330**

**Email: info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk**

Below are some organisations where there are people who will listen to what you have to say and help you sort out problems. Telephone calls are free, so you can call them from any telephone, including a public telephone box:

**Childline**

This is a special 24 hour helpline for children who are in trouble or at risk of being hurt or abused. Call free on 08001111 or you can find them on a computer, [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children – NSPCC**

If you are experiencing a bad time at home, or being bullied at school or scared about something, you can ring the NSPCC free on 08008005000 or you can find them on a computer on [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

**What about after the Special Guardianship Order is made?**

**The address of your local Team who can provide advice and guidance about things to do with Special Guardianship Orders is:**

**Post Order Team**

**Kenworthy House**

**98 – 104 George Street**

**Hull**

**HU1 3DT**

**Telephone: 01482 612800**

**If you would like some help or have any worries, then please ring us (or ask your Special Guardian(s) to) on 01482 612800 and we will arrange to come and see you. Ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker.**

**Making a Complaint**

**If you are really unhappy with the Adoption and Fostering Service and you have tried to tell us but you don’t think that it has been sorted, then you can contact the Customer Relations Team. Contact details are:**

**The Complaints Team**

**Brunswick House**

**Strand Close**

**Beverley Road**

**Hull**

**HU2 9DB**

**Telephone: 01482 300300**

**If you remain unsatisfied with our response, you may wish to contact the Local Government Ombudsman on 0300 061 0614.**