

## Glossary

### **Abscond/absconding**

Sometimes the word abscond/absconding is used to explain a child or young person goes missing without permission or authorisation.

### **Advocate**

Route 1 Advocates can support you to have your views heard. Sometimes they might help you to write a letter, make a phone call or go to a meeting with you. An advocate can help you to understand your rights and have a say in the plans that are being made about you.

### **Significant harm**

Significant harm is how Children's Services describe a child or young person being very unsafe and having been, or likely to be, harmed.

### **How to contact Route 1**

#### **Website:**

<https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/route-one-advocacy/>

**Email:** route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk

**Number:** 01749 822801



For any further information, please contact your Social Worker or Independent Reviewing Officer.

# Young person's guide: Secure Accommodation and Secure Accommodation Reviews



### What is Secure Accommodation?

Secure Accommodation is a secure home, which stops you doing things that you would normally like to do (some examples include: stopping you leaving the building by locking doors, or limiting your mobile phone access).

**This is done to keep you safe.**

Whilst in Secure Accommodation, you will meet with a team of adults who will talk to you about your **health, education and behaviour.**

### Who decides that I need Secure Accommodation?

The Local Authority can only consider Secure Accommodation when all other options have been tried, and where there is a **risk of immediate harm to yourself or others, which cannot be managed in any other setting.**

The **Director of Children's Services** must give approval for the court to consider if you should be placed in Secure Accommodation. A Judge must agree that Secure Accommodation is needed to keep you safe.

**You can attend** the court hearing, and the Judge will listen to your views before they make a decision.

**The court** can make the first secure order for a minimum of **3 months**, and **6 months** for any further application.

Your **Social Worker**, the **Director of Children's Services**, and the **Judge** must think about the following criteria before Secure Accommodation is considered:


You have a history of going missing, and are likely to abscond from any other accommodation

**AND**

If you go missing/abscond, you are likely to suffer significant harm


**OR**

You are likely to injure yourself or others if placed in any other accommodation



**1. What are Secure Accommodation Reviews (SARs)? Why do they happen?**

**1.** Secure Accommodation Reviews are meetings to discuss your progress and consider if you still meet the criteria (page 2) for Secure Accommodation, or if your needs can be met in any other setting.



**2. When do Secure Accommodation Reviews take place?**

**2.** A Secure Accommodation Review will happen within **1 month** of you moving to a secure home. After this, reviews will take place at least every **3 months**.



**3. What happens in the review? Who attends?**

Secure Accommodation Reviews **do not** replace your Child Looked After reviews for your overall care plan with your Independent Reviewing Officer.

**3.** Secure Accommodation Reviews will take place in person at your secure home.

There is an **independent panel** which includes: **the chair** (person who leads the meeting), **another panel member** and an **independent person**.

The **independent person** from the panel will offer to meet with you before the review. They will listen to you carefully, find out your views, think about what you tell them, and consider the opinions shared by other people during your review.

**You can attend this meeting - it is important you are part of your Secure Accommodation Review** to hear what is being said and contribute to the decisions being made.

Your Social Worker, staff from your secure home, and other professionals will attend. Your parents/carers may attend.

You are entitled to an **advocate** (details about Route 1 Advocacy Service are on page 4). If you have an advocate, they will meet with you before your review to hear your views and make sure these are shared at your review.

**Your advocate can also attend the meeting and speak on your behalf.**



**4. What happens next?**

**4.** Once the meeting has finished, the panel will make a **decision** about whether you need to stay in your secure home to keep you safe. When the panel have decided the outcome, **the person chairing the review will share this with you**. If the decision is made that your needs can be met elsewhere, your Social Worker will speak with you about the available options, and planning for next steps. If a decision is made for you to stay in your secure home, another review will be arranged.