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## Questions and Answers

### What does SGO stand for?

Special Guardianship Order

### What is a Special Guardianship Order (SGO)?

An SGO is a legal order where the Court appoints a carer as the 'Special Guardian' of a child until they turn 18. The Special Guardian then shares parental responsibility for the child with the parents and can make nearly all the major decisions about the child without having to consult the birth parents. It also secures the child or young person's long-term placement.

### Who can apply for an SGO?

A person who is over the age of 18 years old and not the parent of the child that the SGO is for. The application can be made on your own or with another person. The following people can apply to be special guardians:

- \* Any guardian/carer of the child
- \* If you already have a Child Arrangements Order or a Residence Order for the child
- \* Anyone with who the child has lived with for at least 3 years out of the last 5 years.
- \* Anyone with the consent of the local authority if the child is in care
- \* A local authority foster parent with who the child has lived with for at least 1 year before the application
- \* You are a relative of the child and the child has resided with you for at least 1 year before the application
- \* Anyone who has permission of the Court to make the application

### How do I get an SGO?

You are legally required to tell children's services of your local authority that you intend to apply for an SGO and go through an assessment process to be sure that an SGO is in the best interests of the child. It is similar to a foster carer assessment. The Court will decide whether a special guardianship order is the most appropriate order and in the best interests of the child.



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### What support is there for Special Guardians?

- \* Advice, information and guidance
- \* One to one support for carers, children, young people and their families
- \* Kinship Care Support Group
- \* Access to local support services
- \* Access to activities and events
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### What is Kinship Care?

Kinship care is when a child lives full-time or most of the time with a relative or friend who isn't their parent, usually because the parents aren't able to care for them. That relative/friend is called a 'Kinship Carer'. Most kinship carers are grandparents, but other relatives including aunt's, uncles and older siblings as well as family friends and neighbours can be kinship carers.

### Meet the SGO Support Team:

Rachel McGillicuddy - SGO Social Worker  
Charlotte Williams - SGO Support Worker



If you would like any more information or have any questions please contact the SGO Support Team.

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