

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 if you don't know about your plan, your Special Guardian will be able to talk to you about this.

Your plan will have thought about what support you and your Special Guardian 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 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 other 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, for example, 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 adults 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.



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 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 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 be easy to contact).

What you and your Special Guardian 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 Guardian will listen to what you think.

You can talk to your Special Guardian about any contact arrangement, who can agree a plan with you and your workers. Sometimes your Special Guardian 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 Guardian might change.

You can get help and support in the local area where you live, you and your Special Guardian. 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. In North Lincolnshire they have a leaflet that talks about the support and training that is available in North Lincolnshire. You can get a copy of this leaflet by contacting the Adoption and Fostering Service **01724 297024**.

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 Guardian, 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.

Your notes or questions



Other useful contact numbers;

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

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

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:

North Lincolnshire Adoption and Fostering Service

Church Square House

30 – 40 High Street

Scunthorpe

North Lincolnshire

DN15 6NL

Telephone: 01724 297024

If you would like some help or have any worries, then please ring us (or ask your Special Guardian(s) to) on [01724 297024](tel:01724297024) 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 Complaints Person and she is called Julie Pointon. Contact details are:

**The Complaints Representations Manager
North Lincolnshire Council
People Directorate
Hewson House
Station Road
Brigg
North Lincolnshire
DN20 8XJ**

Telephone Number 01724 296487

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

This information in this guide can be made available in other languages, in large print, Braille or on audiotape. Please phone **01724 297024** if you need any of these or any other help to access North Lincolnshire's services.