

# Special Guardianship Orders

## What is a Special Guardianship Order?

Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) are orders made by the Court, which name a Special Guardian who will have responsibility for you until you reach the age of 18. Your Special Guardian must be over the age of 18 years and should have an existing or possible relationship with you, for example: • Grandparents • Aunt/Uncle • Brother/Sister • Other relatives • Family friend • Neighbour • Unrelated foster carer.

## What does Special Guardianship mean?

When a SGO is made by the Court the Special Guardian gains legal parental responsibility for you. This means your Special Guardian will take care of you and make 'day to day' decisions for you, although your Birth Parent/s still have some parental responsibility. If there are disagreements between your Birth Parent/s and your Special Guardian/s, then the views of your Special Guardian/s are considered to be more important. For some decisions your Special Guardian must consult with your Birth Parents. These include: • Taking you out of the country for more than three months • Changing your surname.

### Parental Responsibility and SGO

A SGO is made when the local authority and Court have decided that you cannot live with your Birth Parent/s on a permanent basis. You will live with your Special Guardian until you are 18 years old. SGO means you are not looked after (in care) and a social worker will no longer be involved to have meetings about your care plan. When the SGO is made you will also have a support plan. The support offered may include financial support to your Special Guardian, advice around time with your Birth Parent/s and talking support to help you understand your life story. Your SGO support plan will be reviewed every year by a Special Guardianship social worker.

### Contact us

If you or your Special Guardian have questions or would like more information, then you can contact the Special Guardianship Social Worker

by email:

[specialguardianship@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:specialguardianship@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)