

## Special Guardianship Order



If your child cannot live with you, a judge can make a special guardianship order. This means your child will live with someone else until they are 18.



Judge

The judge will choose someone to look after your child.

This person is called a special guardian.



A special guardian is usually a family member or someone who already knows your child like a foster carer.

If it is a family member, you will have been told who this is before the judge makes the order



The special guardianship order will say where your child will live.



The special guardian will have parental responsibility.

Parental responsibility means that important decisions can be made for your child.



You will still have some parental responsibility for your child but the special guardian is able to make the final decisions. This might be deciding which school your child will go to.



There are some things that the special guardian cannot do without a parent's permission:

- Taking your child out of the country for longer than 3 months
- Changing your child's surname
- Changing your child's religion



### **How long can it last?**

A special guardianship order is permanent. It will last until your child is 18.



If you are unhappy about the time you get to spend with your child or if there is a disagreement between you and the special guardian you can ask a judge to look at this.