



Children Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 41

PART II

ORDERS WITH RESPECT TO CHILDREN IN FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

^{F1}*[Special guardianship]*

^{F1}[14F] **Special guardianship support services**

- (1) Each local authority must make arrangements for the provision within their area of special guardianship support services, which means—
 - (a) counselling, advice and information; and
 - (b) such other services as are prescribed,in relation to special guardianship.
- (2) The power to make regulations under subsection (1)(b) is to be exercised so as to secure that local authorities provide financial support.
- (3) At the request of any of the following persons—
 - (a) a child with respect to whom a special guardianship order is in force;
 - (b) a special guardian;
 - (c) a parent;
 - (d) any other person who falls within a prescribed description,a local authority may carry out an assessment of that person's needs for special guardianship support services (but, if the Secretary of State so provides in regulations, they must do so if he is a person of a prescribed description, or if his case falls within a prescribed description, or if both he and his case fall within prescribed descriptions).
- (4) A local authority may, at the request of any other person, carry out an assessment of that person's needs for special guardianship support services.

Changes to legislation: *Children Act 1989, Section 14F is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (5) Where, as a result of an assessment, a local authority decide that a person has needs for special guardianship support services, they must then decide whether to provide any such services to that person.
- (6) If—
 - (a) a local authority decide to provide any special guardianship support services to a person, and
 - (b) the circumstances fall within a prescribed description,the local authority must prepare a plan in accordance with which special guardianship support services are to be provided to him, and keep the plan under review.
- (7) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision about assessments, preparing and reviewing plans, the provision of special guardianship support services in accordance with plans and reviewing the provision of special guardianship support services.
- (8) The regulations may in particular make provision—
 - (a) about the type of assessment which is to be carried out, or the way in which an assessment is to be carried out;
 - (b) about the way in which a plan is to be prepared;
 - (c) about the way in which, and the time at which, a plan or the provision of special guardianship support services is to be reviewed;
 - (d) about the considerations to which a local authority are to have regard in carrying out an assessment or review or preparing a plan;
 - (e) as to the circumstances in which a local authority may provide special guardianship support services subject to conditions (including conditions as to payment for the support or the repayment of financial support);
 - (f) as to the consequences of conditions imposed by virtue of paragraph (e) not being met (including the recovery of any financial support provided);
 - (g) as to the circumstances in which this section may apply to a local authority in respect of persons who are outside that local authority's area;
 - (h) as to the circumstances in which a local authority may recover from another local authority the expenses of providing special guardianship support services to any person.
- (9) A local authority may provide special guardianship support services (or any part of them) by securing their provision by—
 - (a) another local authority; or
 - (b) a person within a description prescribed in regulations of persons who may provide special guardianship support services,and may also arrange with any such authority or person for that other authority or that person to carry out the local authority's functions in relation to assessments under this section.
- (10) A local authority may carry out an assessment of the needs of any person for the purposes of this section at the same time as an assessment of his needs is made under any other provision of this Act or under any other enactment.
- (11) Section 27 (co-operation between authorities) applies in relation to the exercise of functions of a local authority [^{F2}in England] under this section as it applies in relation to the exercise of functions of a local authority under Part 3 [^{F3}and see sections 164

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and 164A of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 for provision about co-operation between local authorities in Wales and other bodies.]]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 14A-14G inserted (30.12.2005) by [2002 c. 38, ss. 115\(1\), 148](#) (with [Sch. 4 paras. 6-8](#)); [S.I. 2005/2213, art. 2\(k\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 14F(11) inserted (6.4.2016) by [The Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014 \(Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/413\)](#), regs. 2(1), **56(a)**
- F3** Words in s. 14F(11) inserted (6.4.2016) by [The Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014 \(Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/413\)](#), regs. 2(1), **56(b)**
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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 14F applied by [S.I. 2005/1513, reg. 3A](#) (as inserted (W.) (2.7.2018) by [The Special Guardianship \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/573\)](#), regs. 1(1), **5(2)**)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4(1A)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21\(3\)](#)
- s. 4(1C) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 21\(4\)](#)
- s. 4ZA(2)(aa) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 4ZA(3A) inserted by [2009 c. 24 Sch. 6 para. 22\(4\)](#)
- s. 8(4)(k) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 52\(1\)](#)
- s. 31A(4A) inserted by [2014 c. 6 s. 15\(2\)\(b\)](#)