

Family Court Orders

In care proceedings, different court orders are issued at various stages of the proceedings depending on the specific circumstances and the immediate needs of the child. Below is a list of these court orders that may be issued within care proceedings:

Emergency Protection Order (EPO)

Purpose: To provide urgent protection when a child is in immediate danger.

When granted: At the outset of concerns, often before full care proceedings begin.

Interim Supervision Order

Purpose: To provide temporary supervision of the child and to assist, befriend and advise the family.

When granted: During the initial hearings after care proceedings are initiated, if removal from home is not necessary.

Interim Care Order

Purpose: Provide temporary care arrangements for the child while the full case is being considered. Gives the local authority Parental Responsibility.

When granted: during the initial hearings after care proceedings are initiated.



Care Order

Purpose: To place the child under the local authority's care on a long-term basis if the court concludes that the child is at risk.

When granted: At the final hearing, after all evidence and assessments have been reviewed.

Supervision Order

Purpose: To allow the child to stay at home under the local authority's supervision if the court determines that with support, the child can remain safely at home.

When Granted: at the final hearing, as an alternative to a care order.



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Placement Order

Purpose: To allow the local authority to place the child for adoption.

When granted: After the final care order if the court decides that adoption is in the child's best interests.

Special Guardianship Order (SGO)

Purpose: To appoint a special guardian for the child, granting them parental responsibility. For alternative carers - family members, friends etc.

When granted: After final hearings. An alternative to a care order or adoption, gives permanent arrangement while maintaining some legal connection to the birth parents.

Child Arrangements Order

Purpose: To set out the living and contact arrangements for the child.

When granted: Can be issued at the final hearing or at any point if living and contact arrangements need formalising.

Deprivation of Liberty Orders for children (DOLs)

Purpose: to ensure that children are not unlawfully deprived of their liberty and their rights are protected.

When granted: When it becomes evident that the care arrangements for a child have significant restrictions to keep them safe.

Secure Accommodation Order

Purpose: To place the child in a secure facility if they are at risk of harm to themselves or others.

When granted: At any stage if the child's behaviour or circumstances necessitate secure accommodation.

