



**Children's Court  
Guardian Agency**  
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND



# Information for Children and Young People

## What is a Children's Court Guardian?

A Children's Court Guardian (Guardian) is a social worker who works for the Children's Court Guardian Agency.

Sometimes when families can't sort out problems on their own, a Judge in the Family Court listens to the family's problems from every point of view.

To make sure that the child/young person's view is heard the Family Judge asks a Guardian to meet with children and young people, to ask what the child/young person thinks and to find out how they feel about their situation.

There is also a solicitor who works with the Guardian and their role is to speak for the child/young person to the Judge in the Family Court.

The Guardian also talks to others who are important to the child/young person. This includes other family members and teachers.

The Guardian can ask if the child/young person wants to speak to them alone or not. This is to make sure that child/young person's voice is heard especially.

The Guardian will ask the child/young person if they would like to meet with the Family Judge so they can speak to the Judge face to face, whether they want to write a letter, or if they are happy that the Judge will hear their wishes and feelings through the Guardian.

The Guardian will keep children and young people updated about the Family Court until the Judge has made a decision, and then they will share the Judge's decision with the child/young person at the end of the court hearings.

## When the Court Proceedings End

It is important that we hear from children and young people about what helped most, and what could have been done differently, so we send a feedback form to

children and young people after the final decision is made. This will help us to make sure we hear what children and young people say about our service to them, what worked, how we can improve, so we can help other children and young people in the future.

We also have a Youth Board where as a group, young people share their views and ideas based on their experiences of our service.

The Youth Board also participate in consultation sessions in order to ensure that their experiences inform improvements and developments in our service which will benefit children and young people in the future.

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