



Transfer of Guardianship to a carer

Proposed eligibility for OPG

The discussion with carers will include and exploration of the following areas:

- **establishing a relationship with the child** - given relationships take time to build generally this will be over 2 consecutive years of care (for carers who are establishing a relationship with a child) or earlier (when there is an established relation as their often is in kinship care).
 - Close, positive, preferential relationship between the carer and child
 - The child wants the carer to become their legal guardian and wants to be an ongoing part of the carers family
 - The care is making a long term commitment to the child
- **maintaining key connections**
 - carers actions to maintain the child's connection to their cultural and country
 - carers actions to support the child's connection with the birth family into the future
- **up to date screening** carers registered and with a current DCSI child related employment screening

This is demonstrated by the carer:

- Providing a safe and nurturing care environment and appropriate care for the child.
- Having sufficient personal and professional support and resources to provide care for the child both now and into the future.
- Being commitment to the child and willing and able to maintain and strengthen the child's connection to their family of origin, culture and community.
- Making a lifelong commitment to the child and responding to their changing developmental needs and assisting them to plan for their future, providing support to enable them to become independent young adults who can participate effectively within the general community.

OPG Assessment

If these conditions are met the next step will be an assessment.

The person undertaking the assessment will work with all parties to complete the assessment, develop a care plan that will address the child's current and future needs and complete the court application.