

Changes to Special Guardianship Order proceedings

From 22 September 2026, new SGO case categories and validation checks were introduced in CCMS and Civil Apply.

The LAA hopes these changes to Special Guardianship Order case categories in CCMS and Civil Apply will help providers identify the correct application route and ensure applications are assessed under the appropriate funding criteria.

New proceedings are available for:

- Public Law Special Guardianship Order cases
- Applications to vary or discharge a Special Guardianship Order

The SGO category names and descriptions have also been changed to make it clearer which proceeding category should be selected for parental and non-parental guardianship cases. As part of the merits assessment, providers will be asked additional questions to confirm:

- whether the client is the parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child subject to the proceedings
- whether the client opposes the Special Guardianship Order
- for public law matters, whether the application is being heard as part of ongoing public law proceedings

The answers to the questions will be used to validate that the correct case category has been selected.

A revised version (v12 October 2026) of the [Civil Representation Guidance on Proceeding Codes: Proceedings Codes and Standard Wordings for post-April 2013 Certificates](#) have been uploaded to support new family law codes for Special Guardianship matters.