

The Girl Speaks



For the Grandparents

“

You weren't
expecting to
be here.

But here you
are — holding
love, concern,
and so many
questions.

”

You may not be at the centre of the decisions

—

but your love, presence, and willingness to
show up still matter.

When social services become involved with
your grandchild's care, it can feel like the
ground shifts beneath you.

You may not have rights in the legal sense
but you do still have a place.

Maybe you're caring for your grandchildren
full-time.

Maybe you've been shut out, left waiting for
updates, or trying to make sense of a system
that doesn't always see the wider family.

This page is for you.

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What You Can Do:

- Request a meeting with the social worker, even if you won't get official updates. Let them know you'd like to be seen as a safe, supportive presence.
- Put your intentions in writing. Let them know you care, want to help, or are open to assessment as a carer.
- Be part of assessments. If you're already actively involved, you can often participate in viability or kinship assessments.
- Explore Special Guardianship. If you're able and assessed as suitable, you could become a formal carer under a Special Guardianship Order.
- Ask about contact. Social services may arrange this if it benefits the child — and you can express your wish to stay in touch.

Things to Keep in Mind:

Information is limited: Due to data protection, you won't receive detailed updates unless you're part of the proceedings or a formal carer.

Your words matter: Stay calm, child-focused, and document your communication. Being respectful and reliable goes a long way.

You're not alone: Many grandparents feel invisible during this process — but your presence can still shape the child's world.

Your presence matters: Grandparents can provide key emotional stability — even if the legal system doesn't fully recognise it
yet

A Final Word for Grandparents

We know the information and rights available to grandparents can feel painfully limited.

You may be left waiting, wondering, or feeling invisible — even when your heart is fully present.

Still, your love matters. Your presence matters.

Whether you're given a clear role or simply stand ready in the background, you are part of their story.

Hold steady.

Keep showing up in the ways you can.

You are not alone.

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“They may not see
the strength it takes
to love from the edges —
but your quiet
presence is felt
all the same.”

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