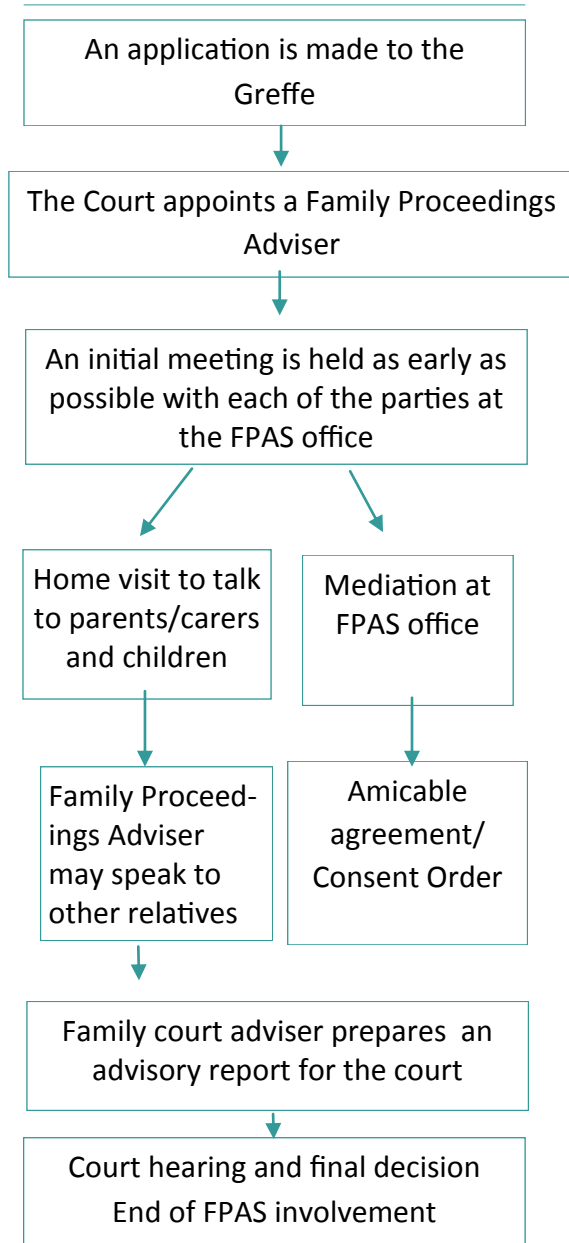


## The usual Private Law Court Process



## Mediation



Would you like to be able to communicate more effectively with your ex-partner/spouse?

Would you like to make the right decisions for your children by participating in a positive and supportive process?

You can access our Mediation Service via the Greffe , your Advocate or by contacting us yourself

See our Mediation leaflet for details, or [www.gov.gg/mediation](http://www.gov.gg/mediation)

Family Proceedings Advisory Service  
Guernsey Information Centre  
North Esplanade  
St Peter Port  
Guernsey  
GY1 2LQ



States of Guernsey  
Family Proceedings  
Advisory Service

## INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS



**Putting children and young people first**

Tel: +44 (0) 1481 743700

# Family Proceedings Advisory Service — Putting children and young people first

## Who are we?

The Family Proceedings Advisory Service (originally the Safeguarder Service) was set up in January 2008 to provide advice to the family courts.

We work for the courts, independently of the Committee *for* Health and Social Care, the Committee *for* Education, Sport and Culture and other agencies.

The legal basis of our service is The Children (Guernsey and Alderney) Law 2008 as amended.

## What do we do?

Our role is to:

- Promote the interests of children and young people involved in private family court proceedings and ensure that children's views are heard
- Make recommendations to the courts on the best arrangements for children's care
- Provide Family Proceedings Advisers in public law cases when requested to do so by the Court
- Offer a free mediation service to attempt to resolve disputes or disagreements outside court
- Provide Safeguarders when appointed by the Child and Youth Community Tribunal.

## We become involved:

- In private law when parents or carers are separating or divorcing and have not reached agreement on the care of their children
- Or when social services have become involved and children's safety is potentially at risk (public law)
- Or when children are being adopted

## How do we work?

Once the Court has appointed a Family Proceedings Adviser we will hold an initial meeting with you to gain a clear understanding of your circumstances. We may then offer you the opportunity to use our mediation service with the aim of reaching an agreement without going to Court.

If this is not possible we may prepare a report for the Court stating what we consider to be the best arrangements for your child/children. We will do this after talking to you in our offices and usually at your home; we may also speak to other family members, teachers, etc and will carry out checks with agencies such as the Police and Probation Service. We will also speak to your child/children to ascertain their wishes and feelings.

## What about confidentiality?

All the relevant information you provide will be included in our report which is confidential to the Court and all parties involved. However, if the Family Proceedings Adviser believes that a child is at risk of harm it is our responsibility to contact the Committee *for* Health and Social Care. As we believe in the importance of working in an open and honest way we will if possible inform you before doing so.

## Will my children have to go to Court?

No – children are not usually asked to go to Court, it is the role of the Family Proceedings Adviser to ensure that their views are passed on to the Judge.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Familyproceedingsadvisersparentsurvey>  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Familyproceedingsadviserschildrensurvey>