

## HOW LONG CAN THEY KEEP ME THERE?

Every case is different. The judge has the power to recommend that you stay in Secure Accommodation for three months at a time.

An independent review must take place after 1 month from the start of the placement. Further reviews will then take place at three month intervals from then on. However, your situation will be continually looked at during your placement.

The purpose of the review is to see if you still meet the criteria to be held.

## WHAT IS A REVIEW?

A review is a meeting that is held about you. The review will involve your Social Worker, as well as staff from the Secure Accommodation who have responsibility for deciding if you still meet the criteria for being in a secure placement. It is really important that you are part of this meeting as decisions are made about you!

## HOW DO I GET OUT?

Whilst in Secure Accommodation your behaviour is continually assessed. Once a review takes place, a decision is made if you still meet the criteria or not. If you no longer meet the criteria you will be discharged.

This leaflet is based on information contained on the Children (NI) Order 1995, Guidance and Regulations Volume 4 'Residential Care'

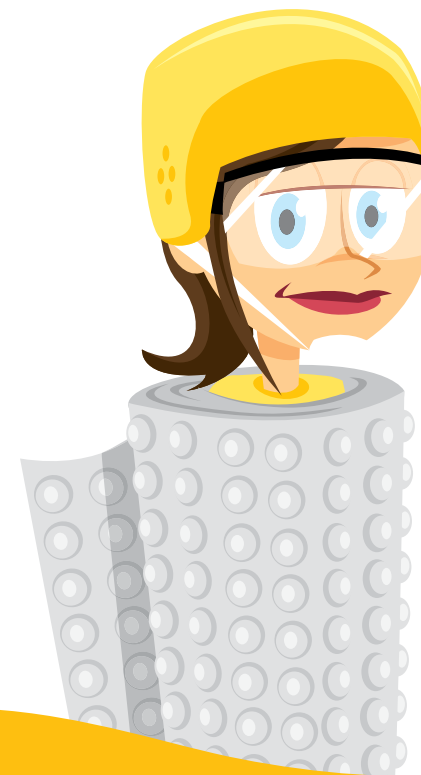
PLEASE NOTE THE INFORMATION ON THIS LEAFLET WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

## ARE YOU CONFUSED OR STILL NOT SURE?

If you are uncertain about any aspect of this leaflet, or want some extra support, you can ask for an **Advocate** from VOYPIC and they will be happy to help you.

## HOW DO I GET AN ADVOCATE?

- Ring 08450 742 942 and ask for the Advocacy Service or email [advocacy@voypic.org](mailto:advocacy@voypic.org)
- You will talk to the Duty Advocate. They can offer you help and advice there and then
- If you need to meet someone for further support, they will put you in touch with an Advocate in your area
- It is that easy! Our Duty Advocates are there for you 9.30am-5.30pm, Monday to Thursday and 9.30am – 4.30pm on Friday



**ADVOCACY LINE: 08450 742 942**

9-11 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1JG  
Tel: 02890 244 888 Fax: 02890 240 679  
E-mail: [advocacy@voypic.org](mailto:advocacy@voypic.org)  
Website: [www.voypic.org](http://www.voypic.org)



**YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO  
SECURE  
ACCOMMODATION**

## THIS LEAFLET IS A SHORT GUIDE TO SECURE ACCOMMODATION

It is intended to give you information about;

- The criteria for being held in Secure Accommodation
- How you can be placed in Secure Accommodation
- If Secure Accommodation is like being in jail
- How long you can be kept there
- How you can get discharged

## YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN SECURE ACCOMMODATION IF:

- You run away a lot (abscond); and
- By running away you are at risk (significant harm); or
- You are likely to harm yourself or others if you are not placed in Secure Accommodation.

## GETTING PLACED IN SECURE ACCOMMODATION

There are two ways you can be placed in Secure Accommodation;

1. You can be placed in Secure Accommodation without going to court. If this is the case then, you can not be placed in Secure Accommodation for any longer than 72 hours in any 28 day period
2. You can be placed in Secure Accommodation by the court. Before going to court, you should have the following people to support you
  - Solicitor
  - GAL (Guardian ad Litem - see [www.nigala.hscni.net/](http://www.nigala.hscni.net/))

If the court decides you do not meet the criteria for Secure Accommodation you will be returned to a non - secure placement.

If the court decides to place you in Secure Accommodation:

- You can be held for up to three months
- You can be held for a further 6 months after the initial 3 months

## IS SECURE ACCOMMODATION LIKE JAIL?

No - it is a Children's Home that is secure.

- By going to Secure you are not being punished by the courts.
- Although the accommodation is secure, you may be allowed out sometimes - this is called a 'trust system'. This systems means that as you build trust you may be allowed out with staff for short periods.

