

A guide to Education Welfare Services
for parents and carers

Education Supervision Orders



Education Supervision Orders were introduced when the 1989 Children Act became law. They encourage parents (or carers) and children to work in partnership with a Supervising Officer and each other, to benefit both the child and the family.

What is an Education Supervision Order?

An Education Supervision Order is made by the court when a child has a poor record of school attendance. This happens when previous efforts to solve the problem have not been successful.

The court can only grant a Supervision Order if it believes that making an order is necessary.

A Supervising Officer (who may be an Education Welfare Officer) will work with you, your child and your family to resolve the attendance problem.

Will my child and I have to attend Court?

Yes, you and your child will be asked to attend the Family Court. The setting is less formal than in an ordinary court. Family Courts are specially designed to hear reports about family matters.



What are my legal rights?

You keep all your legal rights except the right to choose your child's school during the period of the Education Supervision Order. You can appoint your own solicitor if you wish.

You and your child will be able to express your views personally to the magistrates.

What happens if the Court makes an Education Supervision Order?

An Education Welfare Officer may be appointed to you and your child by Cornwall Council. It may not be the officer who has already been working with you. The Officer will work with you both to help sort out the problems that are preventing your child from attending school.

Occasionally, the Supervising Officer may issue 'directions' in writing. This may require for example, attending meetings with headteachers, or meeting the Supervising Officer at a regular interval. The court will

expect you and/or your child to obey these instructions. Failure to do so could result in you being fined.

How long will the Education Supervision Order last?

The order will initially be for one year. Before the end of that year, an application can be made for the Order to be extended for up to three years at a time.

However, an Order cannot continue once your child has passed compulsory school age. An application to discharge the Order can be made before it is due to end by you, the Supervising Officer or your child. If you wish to do this you need to apply to the court. If the court agrees that there are no longer reasons for an order to exist, the court may discharge it.

Where to find us


For further information please contact
the Education Welfare Service Office.

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If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

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