

Secure Accommodation is a secure children's home

This guide will help you understand:

Why you might be placed in Secure Accommodation

What to expect if you are placed in Secure Accommodation

Duration of placements in Secure Accommodation

Secure Accommodation Reviews

The role of the Independent Person

Attending Your Review

It is really important that you are part of the review meeting to hear what is being said and the decisions being made. A member of staff from the unit or an Advocate can help you write something to read out at the meeting, if you would prefer this.



Need More Information?



Watch our explainer video under secure accommodation reviews on our website

Referrals

Independent Person and Leaflets:

✉ admin@rrconsultancy.org

🌐 www.rrconsultancy.org

☎ 0844 567 2697



**SECURE ACCOMMODATION
REVIEWS**

A Young Person's Guide

What to Expect in Secure Accommodation

You will attend education, have meetings with your key worker and other staff and be supported to look at the things that led to you being placed in secure accommodation, so that you can consider what you might like to do differently once you leave. You will be allowed visits from your Social Worker and where appropriate, visits and telephone calls from your family.



The Criteria

The reasons why you might be placed in secure accommodation, s.25 Children Act 1989, Welfare Criteria

- Keep running away (abscond persistently); and
- Each time you run away you are at risk (of significant harm); or
- You are likely to cause harm to yourself or others unless you are held in a place of safety like Secure Accommodation.



Placements in Secure Accommodation

There are two ways you can be placed in a Secure Unit:

1. If your local authority believes you meet the criteria for being placed in secure accommodation they will apply to a Court for a "Secure Accommodation Order". Before going to court you are entitled to have or should have the support of a Solicitor and a Guardian ad Litem. If the court decides you do not meet the criteria for being placed in secure accommodation, you will be returned to a placement that is not secure.
2. You can also be placed in Secure Accommodation without going to court. If this happens you can't be placed in Secure Accommodation for more than 72 hours in a 28 day period.



Duration

If a Court agrees, you can be placed for up to three months which can be extended up to six months and in some cases, longer. The Court will need to agree any extension and there will need to be regular reviews to see if you still meet the criteria.

The Secure Accommodation Review

Also known as SAR and SCR (secure criteria review) Regulation 15, The Children (Secure Accommodation) Regulations 1991

- Purpose** To review your progress and if you still meet the criteria for secure accommodation.
- Timescales** Within one month of your placement and at intervals not exceeding three months after this.
- Participants** You! Your Social Worker, staff from the Secure Unit, your parent/carer and other professionals where appropriate. A three person panel which includes an Independent Person from RRC and two independent people from the local authority, (not your social worker or their manager) who will decide if you still meet the criteria to remain in secure accommodation.
- Your Role** It is really important that you are part of the review meeting to hear what is being said and the decisions being made. A member of staff from the unit or an Advocate can help you write something to read out at the meeting.
- Advocates** You are entitled to have an independent Advocate attend the meeting and speak on your behalf if you prefer. Speak to your social worker about this.
- Independent Person** Before the review an RRC Independent Person will meet with you to explain their role and find out how you feel about the placement and if you feel your needs could be better met somewhere else. The Independent Person is not connected to your local authority. Their role is to listen carefully to your views and the opinions of others present at your review and to decide with the other panel members, if you still meet the criteria or not.

