



Adoption and Children Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

CHAPTER 18

ADOPTION AND CHILDREN ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022

PART 1

Adoption

CHAPTER 1

Introductory

1. Considerations applying to the exercise of powers

CHAPTER 2

The Adoption Service

The Adoption Service

2. Basic definitions
3. Adoption authority
4. The Adoption Service
5. Assessments etc. for adoption support services
6. Adoption support services: duty to provide information

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7. Arrangements on cancellation of registration
8. Inactive or defunct adoption societies, etc.

Regulations

9. General power to regulate adoption agencies
10. Management, etc., of agencies
11. Fees
12. Independent review of qualifying determinations of adoption agencies

Supplemental

13. Information concerning adoption
14. Inspection of premises, etc.

CHAPTER 3

Placement for adoption and adoption orders

Placement of children by adoption agency for adoption

15. Placement for adoption by agencies
16. Placing children with parental consent
17. Advance consent to adoption
18. Placement orders
19. Applications for placement orders
20. Varying placement orders
21. Revoking placement orders
22. Parental responsibility
23. Contact
24. Contact: supplementary
25. Further consequences of placement
26. Further consequences of placement orders

Removal of children who are or may be placed by adoption agencies

27. General prohibitions on removal
28. Recovery by parent etc. where child not placed or is a baby
29. Recovery by parent etc. where child placed and consent withdrawn
30. Recovery by parent etc. where child placed and placement order refused
31. Placement orders: prohibition on removal
32. Return of child in other cases

Removal of children in non-agency cases

33. Restrictions on removal
34. Applications for adoption
35. Authority foster parents
36. Partners of parents
37. Other non-agency cases

Breach of restrictions on removal

38. Recovery orders

Preliminaries to adoption

39. Child to live with adopters before application
40. Reports where child placed by agency
41. Notice of intention to adopt
42. Suitability of adopters

The making of adoption orders

43. Adoption orders
44. Conditions for making adoption orders
45. Restrictions on making adoption orders
46. Applications for adoption
47. Adoption by couple
48. Adoption by one person

Post-adoption contact

49. Post-adoption contact
50. Orders under section 49: supplementary

Placement and adoption: general

51. Parental etc. consent
52. Modification of Children Order in relation to adoption
53. Disclosing information to prospective adopters
54. Revocation of adoptions on legitimation

Disclosure of information about a person's adoption

55. Information to be kept about a person's adoption
56. Restrictions on disclosure of protected etc. information
57. Disclosure of other information
58. Offence
59. Disclosing information to adopted adult
60. Disclosing protected information about adults
61. Disclosing protected information about children

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- 62. Counselling
- 63. Other provision to be made by regulations
- 64. Sections 55 to 64: interpretation

CHAPTER 4

Status of adopted children

- 65. Meaning of adoption in Chapter 4
- 66. Status conferred by adoption
- 67. Adoptive relatives
- 68. Rules of interpretation for instruments concerning property
- 69. Dispositions depending on date of birth
- 70. Property devolving with peerages etc.
- 71. Protection of trustees and personal representatives
- 72. Meaning of disposition
- 73. Miscellaneous
- 74. Pensions
- 75. Insurance

CHAPTER 5

Registers

Adopted Children Register, etc.

- 76. Adopted Children Register
- 77. Searches and copies
- 78. Connections between the register and birth records

Adoption Contact Register

- 79. Adoption Contact Register
- 80. Adoption Contact Register: supplementary
- 81. Interpretation

CHAPTER 6

Adoptions with a foreign element

Bringing children into and out of the United Kingdom

- 82. Restriction on bringing children in
- 83. Giving parental responsibility prior to adoption abroad
- 84. Restriction on taking children out
- 85. Power to modify sections 82 and 84

Adoptions from abroad: special restrictions

- 86. Declaration of special restrictions on adoptions from abroad
- 87. Review
- 88. The special restrictions
- 89. Imposition of extra conditions in certain cases

Overseas adoptions

- 90. Overseas adoptions

Miscellaneous

- 91. Modification of section 66 for Hague Convention adoptions
- 92. Annulment etc. of overseas or Hague Convention adoptions
- 93. Section 92: supplementary
- 94. Overseas determinations and orders
- 95. Power to charge

CHAPTER 7

Miscellaneous

Restrictions

- 96. Restriction on arranging adoptions etc.
- 97. Offence of breaching restrictions under section 96
- 98. Restriction on reports
- 99. Prohibition of certain payments
- 100. Excepted payments
- 101. Sections 96 to 100: interpretation

Information

- 102. Pre-commencement adoptions: information

Proceedings

- 103. Proceedings for offences
- 104. Appeals
- 105. Privacy

Children's court guardians

- 106. Children's court guardians
- 107. Right of access to adoption agency records

Evidence

- 108. Evidence of consent

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Orders made in Great Britain, etc.

- 109. Effect of certain Scottish orders and provisions
- 110. Effect of certain orders made in England and Wales
- 111. Use of adoption records from Great Britain, etc.
- 112. Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

General

- 113. Avoiding delay
- 114. Service of notices etc.
- 115. Jurisdiction of courts

PART 2

Children order amendments

- 116. Definition of family proceedings
- 117. Article 8 orders: authority foster parents
- 118. Duration of residence orders
- 119. Special guardianship
- 120. Ascertainment of children's wishes
- 121. Provision of services to children in need, etc.
- 122. Duty of authorities to promote etc. achievement, learning and development, and to prevent disruption to education or training
- 123. Corporate parenting principles
- 124. Placement of looked after children with prospective adopters
- 125. Accommodation for children: requirements
- 126. Authority foster parents
- 127. Duty to ensure visits to and advice etc. for children
- 128. Former relevant children: continuing functions
- 129. Local offer for care leavers
- 130. Inquiries into representations
- 131. Review of cases of looked after children
- 132. Independent advocacy services
- 133. Definition of harm
- 134. Care plans
- 135. Contact: children in care of authority
- 136. Persons authorised to act as children's court guardian
- 137. Renaming of guardians ad litem
- 138. Interests of children in proceedings
- 139. Definition of privately fostered child
- 140. Welfare of children who will be privately fostered
- 141. Notification of fostering: public awareness
- 142. Privacy for children in proceedings
- 143. Report on the operation of the Children Order

PART 3

Miscellaneous and supplementary

Northern Ireland Adoption and Children Act Register

144. Northern Ireland Adoption and Children Act Register
145. Use of an organisation to establish the register
146. Use of an organisation as an agency for payments
147. Supply of information for the register
148. Disclosure of information
149. Search and inspection of the register by prospective adopters
150. Search and inspection of the register by adoption agencies
151. Supplementary

Supplementary

152. Time limit within which proceedings may be brought
153. Research and investigations
154. Amendments, transitional and transitory provisions, savings and repeals
155. Regulations and orders
156. Rules of court
157. Supplementary and consequential provision
158. Review
159. Interpretation
160. Commencement
161. Short title

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Registration of adoptions

Registration of adoption orders

1. (1) Every adoption order must contain a direction to the...

Registration of adoptions in Great Britain, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands

2. (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) apply where the Registrar General...

Registration of other adoptions

3. (1) If the Registrar General is satisfied, on an application...

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Amendment of orders and rectification of Registers and other records

4. (1) The court by which an adoption order has been...

Marking of entries on re-registration of birth on legitimation

5. (1) Without prejudice to paragraph 2(4) and paragraph 4(5), where,...

Cancellations in registers on legitimation

6. (1) This paragraph applies where an adoption order is revoked...

SCHEDULE 2 — Disclosure of birth records by Registrar General

1. (1) On an application made in the prescribed manner by...
2. (1) Before giving any information to an applicant under paragraph...
3. Where an adopted person who is in Northern Ireland—

SCHEDULE 3 — Minor and consequential amendments

PART 1 — Amendments of primary legislation

The Legitimacy Act (Northern Ireland) 1928

1. In section 8A (legitimation of adopted child)—

The Births and Deaths Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 1976

2. In Article 37 (registration or alteration of child's name), in...

The Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985

3. In Schedule 3 to the Child Abduction and Custody Act...

The Child Abduction (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

4. (1) Article 3 (offence of abduction of child by parent,...
5. (1) In the Schedule (modifications of Article 3 for children...

The Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

6. In Article 34 (minors under guardianship, etc.), in paragraph (3)...

The Family Law Act 1986

7. In section 1 (orders to which Part 1 applies), in...
8. In section 19 (jurisdiction: general), after subsection (1) insert

The Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

9. In Article 39 (meaning of “adoption” in Part 5), in...

The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

10. In Article 33 (declarations as to adoptions effected overseas)—

The Armed Forces Act 1991

11. In section 17(4) (persons to be given notice of application...
12. In section 18(7) (persons who may apply to vary or...
13. In section 20(8) (persons who are to be allowed reasonable...
14. In section 22A(7) (persons who are to be allowed reasonable...

The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991

15. In Article 10A (definition of “social care and children functions”),...

The Child Support (Northern Ireland) Order 1991

16. In Article 4 (meaning of certain other terms used in...
17. In Article 27 (disputes about parentage), in paragraph (3) after...

The Social Security Contributions and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992

18. (1) Section 167ZBA (entitlement: prospective adopters with whom looked after...
19. In section 167ZL (statutory adoption pay: entitlement), in subsection (4A)...
20. (1) Section 167ZLA (entitlement: prospective adopters with whom looked after...
21. (1) Section 167ZY (entitlement: prospective adopters with whom looked after...

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

22. In Article 2 (interpretation), in paragraph (2)—
23. In Article 7 (acquisition of parental responsibility), in paragraph (1B)—...
24. In Article 8 (residence, contact and other orders with respect...
25. In Article 9 (restrictions on making Article 8 orders), in...
26. In Article 10 (power of court to make Article 8...
27. In Article 12 (residence orders and parental responsibility), in paragraph...
28. In Article 16 (family assistance orders), in paragraph (2)(a) for...

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29. In Article 22 (powers of person with parental responsibility), in...
30. In Article 28 (regulations under Article 27), in paragraph (1)...
31. In Article 33 (arrangements to assist children to live abroad) —...
32. In Article 34E (personal advisers)— (a) in paragraph (1)—
33. In Article 34F (pathway plans)— (a) in paragraph (1)—
34. In Article 35 (persons qualifying for advice and assistance)—
35. In Article 35A (advice and assistance for qualifying persons)—
36. In Article 35B (assistance with employment, education and training)—
37. In Article 52 (effect of care order)—
38. In Article 53 (parental contact etc with children in care)—
39. In Article 153 (child care training), in paragraph (3) for...
40. In Article 155 (parents not being married to, or civil...
41. In Article 178 (power of constable to assist in exercise...
42. In Article 179 (effect and duration of orders, etc.), after...
43. In Schedule 1 (financial provision for children)—
44. In Schedule 6 (property rights etc.), in paragraph 2 (dispositions...

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995

45. In section 26 (manner of provision of accommodation to child...

The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

46. In Article 85ZJ (right to paid time off to attend...
47. (1) Article 85ZS (entitlement: prospective adopters with whom looked after...
48. (1) Article 107AB (ordinary adoption leave: prospective adopters with whom...
49. (1) Article 107H (entitlement to shared parental leave: prospective adopters...
50. (1) Article 112BA (entitlement to paternity leave: prospective adopters with...

The Police Act 1997

51. In section 113A (criminal record certificates), in subsection (6D)(aa) after...

The Family Homes and Domestic Violence (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

52. In Article 2 (interpretation)— (a) in paragraph (2) for the...
53. In Article 3 (meaning of “cohabittees” etc.)—

The Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002

- 54. In Schedule 1 (listed judicial offices) omit each of the...
- 55. In Schedule 6 (office-holders required to take judicial oath) omit...

The Adoption and Children Act 2002

- 56. In section 63 (counselling), in subsection (4)(b) for the words...
- 57. In section 65 (sections 56 to 65: interpretation), in subsection...
- 58. In section 123 (restriction on advertisements etc.), in subsection (3)(a)...
- 59. In section 144 (general interpretation etc.), in subsection (1)—

The Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

- 60. (1) Article 22 (relevant consents required) is amended as follows....

The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation)(Northern Ireland) Order 2003

- 61. In Article 2 (interpretation), in paragraph (2)—
- 62. In Article 15 (cancellation of registration), in paragraph (2) for...
- 63. In Article 36 (provision of information), in paragraph (2)(a) for...
- 64. In Article 38 (statements of minimum standards), in paragraph (4)(d)...
- 65. In Article 40 (information, entry and inspection), in paragraph (3)(b)...

The Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

- 66. In Article 39 (conditional fee agreements: supplementary), in paragraph (2)(c)...
- 67. In Schedule 2 (civil legal services: excluded services), in paragraph...

The Commissioner for Children and Young People (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

- 68. In Article 3 (interpretation: child or young person), in paragraph...

The Children and Adoption Act 2006

- 69. Omit sections 9 to 12 (special restrictions on adoptions from...
- 70. In section 17 (short title, commencement and extent)—

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The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008

71. In Article 34 (family relationships), in paragraph (1)(b) after “adoption)”...
72. In Article 36 (Articles 32 and 33: sexual relationships which...
73. In Article 68 (sex with an adult relative: penetration), in...
74. In Article 69 (sex with an adult relative: consenting to...

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008

75. In section 55 (parental orders: supplementary provision), in subsection (3)—...

The Children’s Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

76. In section 9 (interpretation), in subsection (2)(a) after “34D,” insert...

The Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

77. In section 285 (family relationships etc.)— (a) in subsection (1),...

The Data Protection Act 2018

78. (1) Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 3 (exemptions etc from GDPR:...
79. (1) Schedule 4 (exemptions etc. from the GDPR: disclosure prohibited...

The Health and Social Care Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

80. (1) Schedule 1 (transfer of the Regional Board’s functions) is...
PART 2 — Amendments of subordinate legislation

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Parental Orders) Regulations 2018

81. In regulation 1 (citation, commencement, extent and interpretation), in paragraph...
82. (1) In regulation 4 (application of certain provisions of the...
84. (1) In Schedule 4 (references to adoption etc in enactments...

SCHEDULE 4 — Transitional and transitory provisions and savings

Adoption support services

1. (1) The facilities to be provided by an HSC trust...

Pending applications for freeing orders

2. Nothing in this Act affects any application for an order...

Freeing orders

3. (1) Nothing in this Act affects any order made under...

Pending applications for adoption orders

4. Nothing in this Act affects any application for an adoption...

Pending applications for parental orders

5. Where, immediately before the repeal of the Adoption (Northern Ireland)...

Advertising

6. In Article 60 of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987...

Registration of adoptions

7. (1) The power of the court under paragraph 4(1) of...

The Adoption (Hague Convention) Act (Northern Ireland) 1969

8. (1) Despite the repeal of the Adoption (Hague Convention) Act...

The Child Abduction (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

9. Paragraph 5 of Schedule 3 does not affect the Schedule...

SCHEDULE 5 — Repeals

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Sch. 4 para. 1 repealed by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 5](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2018/412, Sch. 3 (as substituted) by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 83](#)