

Status: This version of this provision is prospective.

Changes to legislation: Adoption and Children Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, Section 106 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes



2022 CHAPTER 18

PART 1

Adoption

CHAPTER 7

Miscellaneous

Children's court guardians

PROSPECTIVE

Children's court guardians

106.—(1) Rules of court must provide for the appointment in prescribed cases of a children's court guardian for the purposes of any relevant application.

(2) Rules of court may provide for the children's court guardian—

- (a) to act on behalf of the child upon the hearing of any relevant application, with the duty of safeguarding the interests of the child in the prescribed manner;
- (b) where the court so requests, to prepare a report on matters relating to the welfare of the child in question;
- (c) to perform prescribed functions.

(3) A report prepared in pursuance of the rules of court on matters relating to the welfare of a child must—

- (a) deal with prescribed matters (unless the court orders otherwise); and
- (b) be made in the manner required by the court.

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(4) A person who—

- (a) in the case of an application for the making, varying or revocation of a placement order, is employed by the adoption authority which made the application;
- (b) in the case of an application for an adoption order in respect of a child who was placed for adoption, is employed by the adoption agency which placed the child; or
- (c) is within a prescribed description,

is not to be appointed under subsection (1).

(5) In this section, “relevant application” means an application for—

- (a) the making, varying or revocation of a placement order;
- (b) the making of an order under section 23, or the varying or revocation of such an order;
- (c) the making of an adoption order, or
- (d) the making of an order under section 83.

(6) Rules may make provision as to the assistance which the court may require a children’s court guardian to give to it.

(7) In subsections (1) to (4) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules of court.

(8) The Department may by regulations provide that children’s court guardians appointed under this section must be selected from persons employed or approved for that purpose by such special agency or other public body as may be prescribed.

(9) Subsection (8) is not to be taken to prejudice the power of the Lord Chief Justice to confer or impose duties on the Official Solicitor under section 75(2) of the Judicature (Northern Ireland) Act 1978.

(10) The regulations may, in particular, make provision—

- (a) for the employment or approval of persons for the purposes of this section by such special agency or other public body as may be prescribed;
- (b) as to the qualifications for appointment as a children’s court guardian;
- (c) as to the training to be given to children’s court guardians or to persons with a view to their appointment as children’s court guardians; and
- (d) for monitoring the work of children’s court guardians.

(11) The Department may, with the approval of the Department of Finance, make such grants as the Department considers appropriate with respect to expenditure incurred under regulations made under subsection (8).

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Commencement Information

II S. 106 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 160\(1\)](#)

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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](#)