



# Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978

## 1978 CHAPTER 28

### PART I

#### THE ADOPTION SERVICE

##### *The Adoption Service*

#### **1 Establishment of Adoption Service**

- (1) It is the duty of every local authority to establish and maintain within their area a service designed to meet the needs, in relation to adoption, of—
  - (a) children who have been or may be adopted;
  - (b) parents and guardians of such children; and
  - (c) persons who have adopted or may adopt a child ;and for that purpose to provide the requisite facilities, or secure that they are provided by approved adoption societies.
- (2) The facilities to be provided as part of the service maintained under subsection (1) include—
  - (a) temporary board and lodging where needed by pregnant women, mothers or children ;
  - (b) arrangements for assessing children and prospective adopters, and placing children for adoption;
  - (c) counselling for persons with problems relating to adoption.
- (3) The facilities of the service maintained under subsection (1) shall be provided in conjunction with the local authority's other social services and with approved adoption societies in their area, so that help may be given in a co-ordinated manner without duplication, omission or avoidable delay.
- (4) The services maintained by local authorities under subsection (1) may be collectively referred to as "the Scottish Adoption Service ", and a local authority or approved adoption society may be referred to as an adoption agency.