

*These notes refer to the Adoption and Children Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c.18) which received Royal Assent on 27 April 2022*

# Adoption and Children Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### **Part 1 - Adoption**

#### ***Chapter 3 - Placement for Adoption and Adoption Orders***

#### ***Section 42: Suitability of adopters***

Section 42 amplifies the power in section 9 in relation to determining the suitability of adopters.

*Subsection (1)* enables the Department to make regulations prescribing the matters to be taken into account by an adoption agency in determining the suitability of any persons to adopt a child, or in making any report in respect of the suitability of such persons. The regulations may in particular make provision for ensuring that adoption agencies, in determining the suitability of a couple to adopt, give proper regard to the need for stability and permanence in their relationship (*subsection (2)*). A definition of “couple” is given in section 159(3).