

*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 22: Parental responsibility***

Section 22 makes provision for who is to have parental responsibility where a child is placed for adoption under section 16 (placement with consent) or an adoption agency is authorised to place a child for adoption under that section, or where a placement order is in force. Once consent to placement under section 16 is given, or a placement order is made, the adoption agency has parental responsibility for the child (*subsection (2)*) and while a child is placed with prospective adopters, parental responsibility is given to them (*subsection (3)*). The child's parents retain parental responsibility throughout the process, up to the point at which an adoption order is made. Under *subsection (4)* the agency may determine the extent to which the parental responsibility of any parent or guardian or of prospective adopters is to be restricted.