

*Status: This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are prospective.*  
**Changes to legislation:** *Adoption and Children Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, Cross Heading: Adoption Contact Register is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 June 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 **N.I.**

#### Adoption

### CHAPTER 5 **N.I.**

#### Registers

PROSPECTIVE

#### *Adoption Contact Register*

#### **Adoption Contact Register** **N.I.**

**79.**—(1) The Registrar General must maintain at the General Register Office in accordance with regulations a register in two Parts to be called the Adoption Contact Register.

(2) Part 1 of the register is to contain the prescribed information about adopted persons who have given the prescribed notice expressing their wishes as to making contact with their relatives.

(3) The Registrar General may only make an entry in Part 1 of the register for an adopted person—

- (a) a record of whose birth is kept by the Registrar General;
- (b) who has attained the age of 18 years; and
- (c) who the Registrar General is satisfied has such information as is necessary to enable the person to obtain a certified copy of the record of the person's birth.

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(4) Part 2 of the register is to contain the prescribed information about persons who have given the prescribed notice expressing their wishes, as relatives of adopted persons, as to making contact with those persons.

(5) The Registrar General may only make an entry in Part 2 of the register for a person—

- (a) who has attained the age of 18 years; and
- (b) who the Registrar General is satisfied is a relative of an adopted person and has such information as is necessary to enable the relative to obtain a certified copy of the record of the adopted person's birth.

(6) Regulations may provide for—

- (a) the disclosure of information contained in one Part of the register to persons for whom there is an entry in the other Part;
- (b) the payment of prescribed fees in respect of the making or alteration of entries in the register and the disclosure of information contained in the register.

#### Commencement Information

**11** S. 79 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 160\(1\)](#)

#### Adoption Contact Register: supplementary **N.I.**

**80.—(1)** The Adoption Contact Register is not to be open to public inspection or search.

(2) In section 79, “relative”, in relation to an adopted person, means any person who (but for the adopted person's adoption) would be related to the adopted person by blood (including half-blood), marriage or civil partnership.

(3) The Registrar General must not give any information entered in the register to any person except in accordance with subsection (6)(a) of that section or regulations made by virtue of section 63(4)(b).

#### Commencement Information

**12** S. 80 not in operation at Royal Assent, see [s. 160\(1\)](#)

#### Interpretation **N.I.**

**81.—(1)** In this Chapter—

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations;

“records” includes certified copies kept by the Registrar General of entries in any register of births;

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“registers of live-births” means the registers of live-births made under the Births and Deaths Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 1976;

“regulations” means regulations made by the Department of Finance.

(2) Any register, record or index maintained under this Chapter may be maintained in any form the Registrar General considers appropriate; and references (however expressed) to entries in such a register, or to their amendment, marking or cancellation, are to be read accordingly.

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**Commencement Information**

**I3** S. 81 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](#)