



Adoption Act 1976

1976 CHAPTER 36

PART I

THE ADOPTION SERVICE

Adoption societies

3 Approval of adoption societies.

- (1) Subject to regulations under section 9(1), a body [^{F1}which is a voluntary organisation and desires] to act as an adoption society or, if it is already an adoption society, [^{F2}desires] to continue to act as such may, in the manner specified by regulations made by the Secretary of State, apply to the Secretary of State for his approval to its doing so.
- (2) On an application under subsection (1), the Secretary of State shall take into account the matters relating to the applicant specified in subsections (3) to (5) and any other relevant considerations, and if, but only if, he is satisfied that the applicant is likely to make, or, if the applicant is an approved adoption society, is making, an effective contribution to the Adoption Service he shall by notice to the applicant give his approval, which shall be operative from a date specified in the notice or, in the case of a renewal of approval, from the date of the notice.
- (3) In considering the application, the Secretary of State shall have regard, in relation to the period for which approval is sought, to the following—
 - (a) the applicant's adoption programme, including, in particular, its ability to make provision for children who are free for adoption,
 - (b) the number and qualifications of its staff,
 - (c) its financial resources, and
 - (d) the organisation and control of its operations.
- (4) Where it appears to the Secretary of State that the applicant is likely to operate extensively within the area of a particular local authority he shall ask the authority whether they support the application, and shall take account of any views about it put to him by the authority.

Status: Point in time view as at 30/04/2001.

Changes to legislation: Adoption Act 1976, Cross Heading: Adoption societies is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 August 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)

- (5) Where the applicant is already an approved adoption society or, whether before or after the passing of this Act, previously acted as an adoption society, the Secretary of State, in considering the application, shall also have regard to the record and reputation of the applicant in the adoption field, and the areas within which and the scale on which it is currently operating or has operated in the past.
- (6) If after considering the application the Secretary of State is not satisfied that the applicant is likely to make or, as the case may be, is making an effective contribution to the Adoption Service, the Secretary of State shall, subject to section 5(1) and (2), by notice inform the applicant that its application is refused.
- (7) If not withdrawn earlier under section 4, approval given under this section shall last for a period of three years from the date on which it becomes operative, and shall then expire or, in the case of an approved adoption society whose further application for approval is pending at that time, shall expire on the date that application is granted or, as the case may be, refused.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words substituted by [Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 \(c. 41, SIF 113:3\)](#), s. 9, [Sch. 2 para. 29](#)
- F2** Word substituted by [Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 \(c. 41, SIF 113:3\)](#), s. 9, [Sch. 2 para. 29](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 3: transfer of functions (W) (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), art. 2, [Sch. 1](#)

4 Withdrawal of approval.

- (1) If, while approval of a body under section 3 is operative, it appears to the Secretary of State that the body is not making an effective contribution to the Adoption Service he shall, subject to section 5(3) and (4), by notice to the body withdraw the approval from a date specified in the notice.
- (2) If an approved adoption society fails to provide the Secretary of State with information required by him for the purpose of carrying out his functions under subsection (1), or fails to verify such information in the manner required by him, he may by notice to the society withdraw the approval from a date specified in the notice.
- (3) Where approval is withdrawn under subsection (1) or (2) or expires the Secretary of State may direct the body concerned to make such arrangements as to children who are in its care and other transitional matters as seem to him expedient.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 4: transfer of functions (W) (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), art. 2, [Sch. 1](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 30/04/2001.

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5 Procedure on refusal to approve, or withdrawal of approval from, adoption societies.

- (1) Before notifying a body which has applied for approval that the application is refused in accordance with section 3(6) the Secretary of State shall serve on the applicant a notice—
 - (a) setting out the reasons why he proposes to refuse the application;
 - (b) informing the applicant that it may make representations in writing to the Secretary of State within 28 days of the date of service of the notice.
- (2) If any representations are made by the applicant in accordance with subsection (1), the Secretary of State shall give further consideration to the application taking into account those representations.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall, before withdrawing approval of an adoption society in accordance with section 4(1), serve on the society a notice—
 - (a) setting out the reasons why he proposes to withdraw the approval; and
 - (b) informing the society that it may make representations in writing to the Secretary of State within 28 days of the date of service of the notice.
- (4) If any representations are made by the society in accordance with subsection (3), the Secretary of State shall give further consideration to the withdrawal of approval under section 4(1) taking into account those representations.
- (5) This section does not apply where the Secretary of State, after having considered any representations made by the applicant in accordance with this section, proposes to refuse approval or, as the case may be, to withdraw approval for reasons which have already been communicated to the applicant in a notice under this section.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 S. 5: transfer of functions (W) (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), art. 2, [Sch. 1](#)

Status:

Point in time view as at 30/04/2001.

Changes to legislation:

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