



Adoption and Children Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 38

PART 1

ADOPTION

CHAPTER 2

THE ADOPTION SERVICE

The Adoption Service

3 Maintenance of Adoption Service

- (1) Each local authority must continue to maintain within their area a service designed to meet the needs, in relation to adoption, of—
 - (a) children who may be adopted, their parents and guardians,
 - (b) persons wishing to adopt a child, and
 - (c) adopted persons, their parents, natural parents and former guardians;and for that purpose must provide the requisite facilities.
- (2) Those facilities must include making, and participating in, arrangements—
 - (a) for the adoption of children, and
 - (b) for the provision of adoption support services.
- (3) As part of the service, the arrangements made for the purposes of subsection (2)(b)—
 - (a) must extend to the provision of adoption support services to persons who are within a description prescribed by regulations,
 - (b) may extend to the provision of those services to other persons.
- (4) A local authority may provide any of the requisite facilities by securing their provision by—
 - (a) registered adoption societies, or

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (b) other persons who are within a description prescribed by regulations of persons who may provide the facilities in question.
- (5) The facilities of the service must be provided in conjunction with the local authority's other social services and with registered adoption societies in their area, so that help may be given in a co-ordinated manner without duplication, omission or avoidable delay.
- (6) The social services referred to in subsection (5) are the functions of a local authority which are social services functions within the meaning of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (c. 42) (which include, in particular, those functions in so far as they relate to children).