



Adoption and Children Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 38

PART 1

ADOPTION

CHAPTER 3

PLACEMENT FOR ADOPTION AND ADOPTION ORDERS

[^{F1}Post-adoption contact

[^{F1}51B Orders under section 51A: supplementary

- (1) An order under section 51A—
 - (a) may contain directions about how it is to be carried into effect,
 - (b) may be made subject to any conditions the court thinks appropriate,
 - (c) may be varied or revoked by the court on an application by the child, a person in whose favour the adoption order was made or a person named in the order, and
 - (d) has effect until the child's 18th birthday, unless revoked.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies to proceedings—
 - (a) on an application for an adoption order in which—
 - (i) an application is made for an order under section 51A, or
 - (ii) the court indicates that it is considering making such an order on its own initiative;
 - (b) on an application for an order under section 51A;
 - (c) on an application for such an order to be varied or revoked.
- (3) The court must (in the light of any rules made by virtue of subsection (4))—
 - (a) draw up a timetable with a view to determining without delay whether to make, (or as the case may be) vary or revoke an order under section 51A, and

Changes to legislation: Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 51B is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 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](#)

- (b) give directions for the purpose of ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that that timetable is adhered to.
- (4) Rules of court may—
- (a) specify periods within which specified steps must be taken in relation to proceedings to which subsection (3) applies, and
 - (b) make other provision with respect to such proceedings for the purpose of ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the court makes determinations about orders under section 51A without delay.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 51A, 51B and cross-heading inserted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\)](#), [ss. 9\(1\), 139\(6\)](#); [S.I. 2014/889](#), [art. 4\(a\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 4A inserted by [2014 c. 6 s. 5](#)
- s. 141(7) inserted by [2010 c. 26 Sch. 3 para. 13](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 3 Pt. 2 repealed (4.9.2013) without ever being in force by [2013 c. 22, s. 17\(4\)](#) ; [S.I. 2013/2200 art. 2\(a\)](#))