STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1987 No. 2203

The Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

PART III

ADOPTION ORDERS

The making of adoption orders

Adoption orders

12 [F1]**.—[**[F2](1) An adoption order is an order giving parental responsibility for a child to the adopters, and such an order may be made by an authorised court on the application of the adopters.

(2) The order does not affect parental responsibility so far as it relates to any period before the making of the order.

(3) The making of an adoption order operates to extinguish—

(a) the parental responsibility which any person has for the child immediately before the making of the order;

(b) any order of a court under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995;

(c) any duty arising by virtue of an agreement or the order of a court to make payments, so far as the payments are in respect of the child's maintenance or upbringing for any period after the making of the order.**]**

(4) Paragraph**[**[F3] (3)(c)**]** does not apply to a duty arising by virtue of an agreement—

(a) which constitutes a trust, or

(b) which expressly provides that the duty is not to be extinguished by the making of an adoption order.

(5) An adoption order may not be made in relation to a child who is or has been married**[**[F4] or who is or has been a civil partner**]**.

(6) An adoption order may contain such terms and conditions as the court thinks fit.

(7) An adoption order may be made notwithstanding that the child is already an adopted child.

F1 mod. by SR 2003/16
F2 1995 NI 2
F3 1995 NI 2
F4 2004 c.33

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C1 Art. 12(1)-(4) applied (with modifications) (6.4.2010) by Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Parental Orders) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/985), reg. 3, **Sch. 2**

Changes to legislation:
The Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, Section 12 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 04 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.
View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:
Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 6(2) words inserted by S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 29(4)
- art. 60(1A) inserted by 2022 c. 18 (N.I.) Sch. 4 para. 6(a)