

*These notes refer to the Adoption and Children Act 2002
(c.38) which received Royal Assent on 7th November 2002*

ADOPTION AND CHILDREN ACT 2002

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 2 – Amendments of the Children Act 1989

Section 112: Acquisition of parental responsibility by step-parent

268. *Section 112* inserts *section 4A* into the Children Act 1989 to enable a step-parent to acquire parental responsibility for a child of his spouse. This may be acquired either by agreement between the step-parent and the parents who have parental responsibility for the child, or by order of the court. This measure is intended to provide an alternative to adoption where a step-parent wishes to acquire parental responsibility for his or her step-child. It has the advantage of not removing parental responsibility from the other birth parent and does not legally separate the child from membership of the family of the other birth parent.