



Adoption and Children Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 38

PART 1

ADOPTION

CHAPTER 7

MISCELLANEOUS

General

109 Avoiding delay

- (1) In proceedings in which a question may arise as to whether an adoption order or placement order should be made, or any other question with respect to such an order, the court must (in the light of any [^{F1}provision in rules of court that is of the kind mentioned in subsection (2)(a) or (b))—
- (a) draw up a timetable with a view to determining such a question without delay, and
 - (b) give such directions as it considers appropriate for the purpose of ensuring that the timetable is adhered to.
- (2) Rules may—
- (a) prescribe periods within which prescribed steps must be taken in relation to such proceedings, and
 - (b) make other provision with respect to such proceedings for the purpose of ensuring that such questions are determined without delay.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 109(1) substituted (22.4.2014) by [Children and Families Act 2014 \(c. 6\), ss. 14\(8\), 139\(6\); S.I. 2014/889, art. 4\(c\)](#) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2014/1042](#), arts. 3, 4, 6-10)

Changes to legislation: Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 109 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](#)

Commencement Information

- II** S. 109 in force at 30.12.2005 by [S.I. 2005/2213](#), **art. 2(j)** (with savings and transitional provisions in [S.I. 2005/2897](#), arts. 3-16)

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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 Sch. 3 Pt. 2 repealed (4.9.2013) without ever being in force by 2013 c. 22, s. 17(4) ; S.I. 2013/2200 art. 2(a))