



Adoption and Children Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 38

PART 1

ADOPTION

CHAPTER 3

PLACEMENT FOR ADOPTION AND ADOPTION ORDERS

Placement of children by adoption agency for adoption

21 Placement orders

- (1) A placement order is an order made by the court authorising a local authority to place a child for adoption with any prospective adopters who may be chosen by the authority.
- (2) The court may not make a placement order in respect of a child unless—
 - (a) the child is subject to a care order,
 - (b) the court is satisfied that the conditions in section 31(2) of the 1989 Act (conditions for making a care order) are met, or
 - (c) the child has no parent or guardian.
- (3) The court may only make a placement order if, in the case of each parent or guardian of the child, the court is satisfied—
 - (a) that the parent or guardian has consented to the child being placed for adoption with any prospective adopters who may be chosen by the local authority and has not withdrawn the consent, or
 - (b) that the parent's or guardian's consent should be dispensed with.

This subsection is subject to section 52 (parental etc. consent).
- (4) A placement order continues in force until—
 - (a) it is revoked under section 24,

Changes to legislation: *Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 21 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 03 April 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) an adoption order is made in respect of the child, or
- (c) the child marries [^{F1}, forms a civil partnership] or attains the age of 18 years.

“Adoption order” includes a Scottish or Northern Irish adoption order.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 21(4)(c) inserted (30.12.2005) by [Civil Partnership Act 2004 \(c. 33\)](#), **ss. 79(2)**, 263(2); S.I. 2005/3175, **art. 2(9)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 21 restricted by 1978 c. 28, s. 16(3D) (as inserted (30.12.2005) by [Adoption and Children Act 2002 \(c. 38\)](#), s. 148(1), **Sch. 3 para. 23** (with [Sch. 4 paras. 6-8](#)); S.S.I. 2005/643, **art. 2(c)**)
- C2** S. 21(4)(b) applied (with modifications) (30.12.2005) by [The Adoptions with a Foreign Element Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/392\)](#), **regs. 1(1)**, **11(1)(c)**, 52, 55

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 21 in force at 30.12.2005 by [S.I. 2005/2213](#), **art. 2(c)** (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\(a\)](#))