
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1996 No. 453

**The Arrangements for Placement of Children
(General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996**

Retention and confidentiality of records

9.—(1) A case record relating to a child who is placed shall be retained by the responsible authority until the seventy-fifth anniversary of the date of birth of the child to whom it relates or, if the child dies before attaining the age of 18, for a period of 15 years beginning with the date of his death.

(2) The requirements of paragraph (1) may be complied with either by retaining the original written record, or a copy of it, or by keeping all of the information from such a record in some other accessible form (such as by means of a computer).

(3) A responsible authority shall secure the safekeeping of case records and shall take all necessary steps to ensure that information contained in them is treated as confidential, subject only to—

- (a) any statutory provision under which access to such records or information may be obtained or given; or
- (b) any court order under which access to such records or information may be obtained or given.