

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS OF A
GENERAL CHARACTER
ISSUED IN 1950

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

Adoption Societies

REGULATIONS, DATED 27TH MARCH, 1950, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTION EIGHTEEN OF THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950.

1950. No. 44

The Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry"), in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by Section eighteen of the Adoption of Children Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. Every application for the registration of an adoption society under the Adoption of Children Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, shall be made in the form, and shall give the particulars, set out in the First Schedule to these Regulations.

2. The fee to be paid by an adoption society to the Ministry in respect of registration shall be £1.

3. Where the parent or guardian of a child proposes to place a child at the disposition of a registered adoption society with a view to the child being adopted, the society —

- (a) shall furnish the parent or guardian with a memorandum in the form set out in the Second Schedule to these Regulations; and
- (b) shall not accept the child unless the parent or guardian has signed and delivered to the society a certificate (which the society shall retain) in the form set out in the Second Schedule to these Regulations that he has read and understood the said memorandum.

4. In the case of every child proposed to be delivered by or on behalf of a registered adoption society into the care and possession of an adopter —

- (a) the society shall make inquiries and obtain reports on the points set out in the Third Schedule to these Regulations, and the report obtained on the health of the child shall be signed by a registered medical practitioner; and
- (b) the case shall be considered by a committee (to be called a "case committee") appointed by the society for the purpose and consisting of not less than three persons.

5. No child shall be delivered into the care and possession of an adopter by or on behalf of a registered adoption society until —

- (a) the adopter has been interviewed by the case committee or by some person on their behalf ;
- (b) a representative of the case committee has inspected any premises in Northern Ireland in which the adopter intends that the child should reside permanently ; and
- (c) the case committee have considered the reports required by Regulation 4.

6.—(1) Every registered adoption society shall, within twelve months of the date of registration and thereafter at least once in every period of twelve months, furnish to the Ministry if required so to do.—

- (a) duly audited accounts and balance sheet ; and
- (b) a report in the form set out in the Fourth Schedule to these Regulations.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (1) of this Regulation, the auditor shall be an independent person who is a chartered accountant or a member of an association or society of accountants incorporated at the date on which these Regulations come into force or is on other grounds accepted by the Ministry as competent for the purpose ; and no person shall be deemed to be independent if he is related to or associated in business with any member of a committee or any officer of the society.

7.—(1) Every registered adoption society shall make adequate arrangements for the care and supervision of children who have been placed by their parents or guardians in the care of the society.

(2) Every such child who is not living under the direct control of the society shall, unless and until the child has been adopted in pursuance of an adoption order, be visited in the first month and thereafter at least once in every three months by a representative of the society who shall report upon the case to the case committee ; and, if the case committee so recommend, the society shall immediately remove the child.

8. The Interpretation Act, 1889 shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

9. These Regulations may be cited as the Adoption Societies Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1950, and shall come into operation on the 1st April, 1950.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 27th day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty in the presence of

(L.S.)

H. C. Montgomery,
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Form of Application for Registration

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

(I) (We) the undersigned being (a person) (persons) duly authorised on behalf of the adoption society called hereby apply to the Ministry of Home Affairs to have the said society registered under the above mentioned Act.

The following are particulars of the society :—

1. Date of establishment.
2. Full postal address of the society's administrative centre.
- 3.—(a) For what object(s) does the society exist ?
(b) Does it exist only for the above object(s) ?
(c) Does it apply the whole of its profits, if any, and other income in promoting the above objects ?
A copy of the instrument governing the society's activities should be attached.
- *4. Full names, addresses and occupations or descriptions of all members of the committee controlling the activities of the society.
- *5. Full names, addresses, occupations or descriptions and qualifications of members of the case committee.
6. Has any person taking part in the management or control of the society or any member of the society been convicted of an offence in connection with the adoption of children ? (If so, give particulars.)
- *7. Full names, addresses and qualifications of all persons employed by the society, whether voluntary or paid, for the purpose of making any arrangement for the adoption of children.
8. Cases dealt with by the society during the year ended †.
(a) Number of applications from persons wishing to adopt a child.
(b) Number of children offered to the society with a view to adoption.
(c) Number of children taken into hostels under the direct control of the society pending adoption.
(d) Number of children placed by the society pending adoption in foster homes or hostels, not under the direct control of the society.
(e) Number of children placed with a view to adoption.
(f) Number of adoption orders made in respect of children placed by the Society.
- 9.—(a) Number of children placed for adoption by the society and awaiting adoption orders at the end of the year.
(b) Number of children in hostels under the direct control of the society at the end of the year.
(c) Number of children at the end of the year in foster homes or in hostels in which they had been placed by the society but which are not under the society's direct control.
10. Copies should be attached of the society's latest annual report and audited statement of accounts.

I/We hereby declare that the above particulars are correct in every respect.

Signature

Office held under the society.....

Address

Signature

Office held under the society.....

Address

Date.....

* Attach separate list if necessary.

† Insert date on which last financial year ended.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

SECOND SCHEDULE

Form of Memorandum and Certificate required by Regulation 3

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950

MEMORANDUM TO BE FURNISHED BY A REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY TO EVERY PARENT OR GUARDIAN WHO PROPOSES TO PLACE A CHILD AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE SOCIETY.

If an Adoption Order is made in respect of your child all your powers and duties with regard to the child will be transferred to the adopter for good. You will not be entitled to keep any of your rights as a parent or guardian, nor to have the child back again if you change your mind.

Before the Court makes the Adoption Order, however, it must make what is known as an "Interim Order", giving the child to the adopter for a trial period of from three months to two years, as the Court thinks fit. It is only at the end of this time that the Adoption Order can be made.

It is up to the adopter to apply for both the Interim Order and the Adoption Order, but except for some special reason the Court will not make the Interim Order without your consent; nor will the Court make the Adoption Order unless it is sure that you understand what it means and that you have consented to the adoption. The Court will not do without a parent's or guardian's consent unless he or she has deserted or ill-treated the child, or cannot be found, or is incapable of giving the consent, or has unreasonably withheld it, or is a person whose consent the Court thinks should be done without. You may have to come before the Court in private to say if you agree to the adoption.

Once the Adoption Order is made the child will be the child of the adopter as far as the law is concerned and will not come into any of your property if you should die without making a will or without mentioning the child by name in your will.

An adoption society cannot arrange for your child to be sent abroad for adoption without a licence from the Court, and the licence will not be given without your consent, except for one of the reasons mentioned above.

Certificate to be furnished to a registered adoption society by every parent or guardian who proposes to place a child at the disposition of the society.

To : *

I hereby certify that I received from you a memorandum headed "Adoption of Children Act (Northern Ireland), 1950", from which I have detached this form; I have read the memorandum and I understand it.

Signature

Address

Signature

Address

Date.....

* Here insert name of adoption society.

THIRD SCHEDULE

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950

POINTS ON WHICH INQUIRIES MUST BE MADE AND REPORTS OBTAINED IN THE CASE OF EVERY CHILD PROPOSED TO BE DELIVERED BY OR ON BEHALF OF A REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY INTO THE CARE AND POSSESSION OF AN ADOPTER.

PART A. Particulars relating to the child.

1. Name.
2. Address.
3. Date and place of birth.
4. Is the child a British subject ?
5. If baptised, state place of baptism and denomination.
6. Full name, address and age of the child's parents. If dead, state date of death
7. Parents' religion(s).
8. Has either parent any other children ? If so, state their age and sex.
9. Is there any history of insanity, tuberculosis or other disease in the family of either parent ?
10. Why is the child offered for adoption ?
11. Has the child any right or interest in property ? If so, give full particulars.
12. Has any insurance been effected on the life of the child ?

PART B.

1. If the mother is alive, does she consent to adoption ?
2. If the father is alive,
 - (a) is he married to the mother or otherwise liable to contribute to the child's maintenance ? If so, give particulars. (If the parents are separated, state whether there is a separation order in force.)
 - (b) does he consent to the adoption ?
3. If the child has guardians, state :—
 - (a) their names and addresses ;
 - (b) how and by whom they were appointed ;
 - (c) whether they consent to adoption.
- 4.—(a) Are any other persons liable to contribute to the support of the child ?
(b) If so, do they agree to adoption ?
5. If the answer to question 1, 2 (b), 3 (c) or 4 (b) is in the negative, the reasons should be stated.

PART C. Particulars relating to the adopter.

1. Name(s).
2. Address(es).
3. Country of domicile.
4. Date(s) of birth.
5. Religion(s).
6. Occupation(s).
7. Is it intended to apply for an adoption order ?
8. Is the adopter married or are the adopters a married couple ? If so, give date and place of marriage, and say whether it is intended to make a joint application for an adoption order ?
9. Is there any child of the adopter(s) living at home ? If so, give age and sex.
10. Has any child been adopted by the adopter(s) before ? If so, give particulars.
11. What is the accommodation and condition of the home ?
12. What are the means of the adopter(s) ? How far are the earnings of children living at home included ?
13. What are the wishes of the adopter(s) as to the age and sex of the child they wish to adopt ?
14. Give the names and addresses of two responsible persons who can vouch for the character of the adopter(s).

PART D.

- 1.—(a) Have the particulars given under Parts A, B and C above been verified so far as possible ?
- (b) Have the particulars of the birth of the child, and of the death, marriage or separation of the parents, and of the marriage of the adopter(s) been confirmed by inspection of certificates of birth, death or marriage or the separation order ?
2. Has a representative of the case committee interviewed the adopter(s) ?
3. Has the home of the adopter(s) been inspected by a representative of the case committee ? Was it found satisfactory ?
4. Are the adopter(s) and the members of their household persons of good character ? Have their references been taken up ?
5. Do the adopter(s) and the members of their household appear to be in good health ?
6. Has the child been seen by the adopter(s) ?
7. Has the child been accepted by the adopter(s) with a view to adoption ?

PART E. Medical Particulars.

(The medical report must be signed by a registered medical practitioner.)

- 1.—(a) Date of birth.
- (b) Weight at birth (state if premature).
- (c) Present weight.
- (d) Was the mother's confinement normal or instrumental ?
2. Was the child —
- (a) entirely breast-fed ;
- (b) partially breast-fed ; or
- (c) entirely bottle-fed ?
3. State of nutrition (good, fair, poor).
- 4.—(a) When did the child begin to walk ?
- (b) When did the child begin to talk ?
5. Has the child any affection of bones, muscles, or joints ?
6. Are there any evidences of paralysis ?
7. Are there any evidences of syphilis ? State result of serological test.
8. Is there any evidence of tuberculosis ?
9. Has the child had fits ? If so, state nature.
10. Is there, or has there been, any affection of the skin ?
11. Is there, or has there been, any affection of the eyes ?
Is the sight normal ?
12. Has the child had any discharge from the ears, or any serious ear trouble, and can it hear well ?
13. Are the nose and throat in healthy condition ?
14. Is there any evidence of disease of heart or lungs ?
15. Has the child normal control of bowels and bladder for its age ?
16. Is the child now suffering from any infectious or contagious disease ?
17. Has the child had scarlet fever, measles, chicken-pox, whooping-cough, diphtheria, or mumps ?
- 18.—(a) Has the child been vaccinated ?
- (b) Has the child been immunised against diphtheria ?
- (c) Has the child been vaccinated against tuberculosis ?
19. Has the child any signs of active or healed rickets ?
20. Is the child's mental and physical development normal for its age ?
21. Are behaviour, speech and articulation normal for its age ?
22. If the child has been neglected or improperly fed, do you consider its constitution such that good nursing and proper care would make it suitable for adoption ?
23. Give particulars of any condition not mentioned above about which you consider an adopter should be informed.

Adoption Societies

FOURTH SCHEDULE

Form of Annual Report.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950

REPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS FROM THE ADOPTION SOCIETY CALLED FOR THE YEAR ENDED *

- 1. Full postal address of the society's administrative centre.
- 2. Has there been any change in the objects for which the society exists? Does it still apply the whole of its profits, if any, and other income in promoting those objects?
- *3. Full names, addresses, and occupations or descriptions of all members of the committee controlling the activities of the society.
- *4. Full names, addresses, occupations or descriptions and qualifications of members of the case committee.
- 5. Has any person taking part in the management or control of the society or any member of the society been convicted of an offence in connection with the adoption of children? (If so, give particulars.)
- *6. Full names, addresses and qualifications of all persons employed by the society whether voluntary or paid, for the purpose of making any arrangements for the adoption of children.
- 7. Cases dealt with by the society during the year ended †
 - (a) Number of applications from persons wishing to adopt a child.
 - (b) Number of children offered to the society with a view to adoption.
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 - (e) Number of children placed with a view to adoption.
 - (f) Number of adoption orders made in respect of children placed by the society.
- 8.—(a) Number of children placed for adoption by the society and awaiting adoption orders at the end of the year.
 - (b) Number of children in hostels under the direct control of the society at the end of the year.
 - (c) Number of children at the end of the year in foster homes or in hostels in which they had been placed by the society but which are not under the society's direct control.
- 9. A copy should be attached of the society's latest annual report.

I/We hereby declare that the above particulars are correct in every respect.

Signature

Office held under the society.....

Address

Signature

Office held under the society.....

Address

Date.....

* Insert date on which last financial year ended.

† Attach separate list if necessary.