



# Children Act 1989

## 1989 CHAPTER 41

### PART I

#### INTRODUCTORY

#### **7 Welfare reports**

- (1) A court considering any question with respect to a child under this Act may—
  - (a) ask a probation officer; or
  - (b) ask a local authority to arrange for—
    - (i) an officer of the authority; or
    - (ii) such other person (other than a probation officer) as the authority considers appropriate,to report to the court on such matters relating to the welfare of that child as are required to be dealt with in the report.
- (2) The Lord Chancellor may make regulations specifying matters which, unless the court orders otherwise, must be dealt with in any report under this section.
- (3) The report may be made in writing, or orally, as the court requires.
- (4) Regardless of any enactment or rule of law which would otherwise prevent it from doing so, the court may take account of—
  - (a) any statement contained in the report; and
  - (b) any evidence given in respect of the matters referred to in the report,in so far as the statement or evidence is, in the opinion of the court, relevant to the question which it is considering.
- (5) It shall be the duty of the authority or probation officer to comply with any request for a report under this section.