



Adoption and Children Act 2002

2002 CHAPTER 38

PART 1

ADOPTION

CHAPTER 2

THE ADOPTION SERVICE

The Adoption Service

8 Adoption support agencies

(1) In this Act, “adoption support agency” means an undertaking the purpose of which, or one of the purposes of which, is the provision of adoption support services; but an undertaking is not an adoption support agency—

- (a) merely because it provides information in connection with adoption other than for the purpose mentioned in section 98(1), or
- (b) if it is excepted by virtue of subsection (2).

“Undertaking” has the same meaning as in the Care Standards Act 2000 (c. 14).

(2) The following are excepted—

- (a) a registered adoption society, whether or not the society is registered in respect of the provision of adoption support services,
- (b) a local authority,
- ^{F1}(c)
- ^{F2}(ca) [^{F3}NHS England],
- (d) a Special Health Authority ^{F4}... [^{F5}, integrated care board] (in Wales, a Health Authority or Local Health Board) [^{F6}, NHS trust or NHS foundation trust],
- (e) the Registrar General,
- (f) any person, or description of persons, excepted by regulations.

Changes to legislation: Adoption and Children Act 2002, Section 8 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 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

(3) In section 4 of the Care Standards Act 2000 (basic definitions)—

(a) after subsection (7) there is inserted—

“(7A) “Adoption support agency” has the meaning given by section 8 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.”,

(b) in subsection (9)(a) (construction of references to descriptions of agencies), for “or a voluntary adoption agency” there is substituted “ a voluntary adoption agency or an adoption support agency ”.

[^{F7}(4) In this section “local authority” includes any body that is a local authority as defined in section 579(1) of the Education Act 1996 (in addition to the bodies mentioned in the definition in section 144(1)).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 8(2)(c) repealed (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children’s Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, Sch. 2 para. 50(3)(a), **Sch. 3 Pt. 2**
- F2** S. 8(2)(ca) inserted (1.4.2013) by Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7), s. 306(4), **Sch. 5 para. 106(a)**; S.I. 2013/160, art. 2(2) (with arts. 7-9)
- F3** Words in s. 8 substituted (1.7.2022) by Health and Care Act 2022 (c. 31), s. 186(6), Sch. 1 para. 1(1)(2); S.I. 2022/734, reg. 2(a), Sch. (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
- F4** Words in s. 8(2)(d) omitted (1.4.2013) by virtue of Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7), s. 306(4), **Sch. 5 para. 106(b)(i)**; S.I. 2013/160, art. 2(2) (with arts. 7-9)
- F5** Words in s. 8(2)(d) substituted (1.7.2022) by Health and Care Act 2022 (c. 31), s. 186(6), **Sch. 4 para. 64**; S.I. 2022/734, reg. 2(a), Sch. (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
- F6** Words in s. 8(2)(d) substituted (1.4.2004) by Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c. 43), s. 199(1)(4), **Sch. 4 para. 126**; S.I. 2004/759, art. 2
- F7** S. 8(4) inserted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children’s Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 50(3)(b)**

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 8 in force at 7.12.2004 for specified purposes for E. by S.I. 2004/3203, **art. 2(1)(m)(ii)**
- I2** S. 8 in force at 30.12.2005 for E. in so far as not already in force by S.I. 2005/2213, **art. 3(e)** (with savings and transitional provisions in S.I. 2005/2897, arts. 3-16)
- I3** S. 8 in force at 30.12.2005 for W. by S.I. 2005/3112, **art. 2(b)**

Changes to legislation:

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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\(a\)](#))