



Adoption Act 1976

1976 CHAPTER 36

An Act to consolidate the enactments having effect in England and Wales in relation to adoption. [22nd July 1976]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Power to amend Act conferred (5.7.1994) by [Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990](#) (c. 37, SIF 83:1), **ss. 30(9)(10)**, 39(3), 43(2); S.I. 1994/1776, **art. 2(1)**
- C2** By [Criminal Justice Act 1991](#) (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 101(1), **Sch. 12 para. 23**; S.I. 1991/2208, art. 2(1), **Sch.1** it is provided (14.10.1991) that in relation to any time before the commencement of s. 70 of that 1991 Act (which came into force on 1.10.1992 by S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**) references in any enactment amended by that 1991 act, to youth courts shall be construed as references to juvenile courts.
- C3** Act applied (with modifications) (1.11.1994) by S.I. 1994/2767, **reg. 2**
Act: modified (*prosp.*) by 1999 c. 18, **ss. 17**, 18(3)

Changes to legislation:

Adoption Act 1976, Introductory Text is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 June 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Blanket Amendment words substituted by [2005 c. 4 Sch. 11 para. 1\(2\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The relevant references were repealed before the amendment came into force.)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 3(6A)(6B) inserted by [1999 c. 18 s. 10](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 10 repealed (30.4.2003 for W., 1.6.2003 for E.) without ever being in force by 2000 c. 14, ss. 117(2), 122, Sch. 6; S.I. 2003/501, art. 2(3)(b); S.I. 2003/365, art. 3(6)(a))
- s. 13(4) inserted by [1999 c. 18 s. 11](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 11 ceases to have effect (E.W.) (30.12.2005) by virtue of 2002 c. 38, ss. 139, 148(1), Sch. 3 para. 95 (with Sch. 4 paras. 6-8); S.I. 2005/2213, art. 2(o))
- s. 52(1)(c) power to extend conferred by [2002 c. 38 Sch. 4 para. 16\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 52(1A) inserted by [2002 c. 38 Sch. 4 para. 15\(a\)](#)
- s. 56(4)-(6) inserted by [2002 c. 38 Sch. 4 para. 11\(b\)](#)