

# Adoption Handbook

a Directory of Adoption Related Services



Adoptive Parents Association of Ireland

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# **Adoption Handbook**

**and Directory of  
Adoption Related Services**

**To be purchased through any Bookseller, or directly from the  
Secretary of the Adoptive Parents Association of Ireland,  
Glendalough Post Office, County Wicklow, Ireland.**

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**T**he Adoptive Parents Association of Ireland would like to thank all the people who, with their help, reassurance and advice, made this handbook possible. There was much encouragement from the many social workers contacted for information, and great help given by members of the Adoption Board, notably the former Registrar Colm Keenan, Elizabeth Barrett and David Wolfe, Registrar. We would also like to thank Senator Marian McGennis M.C.C., Barnardo's, Fingal Library Services, BAAF and many others for their help. Thanks also to Visual Communications for their acceptance, at very short notice, of the design work and production of this handbook.

We would like to hear of any omissions or errors in order that we may correct them, and for these we apologise. We would be pleased to have any new information for inclusion in future editions.

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**T**HE ADOPTIVE PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND was founded in 1976 as a representative and support group for adoptive parents and their families, providing sympathy and understanding to anyone looking for advice on any area of adoption. Since then our work has expanded to include people doing projects and theses on adoption – nurses, university college students, social workers, together with adoptive parents, prospective adopters, adoptees, birth parents, etc. If we cannot help in a particular instance, we will always know someone who can advise. We have a very good network.

The organisation works through local branches with a central council – comprised of representatives from the branches – which meets monthly in Dublin, and is responsible for most of the work of the Association. The Council is entirely voluntary, and does not employ paid staff. All its work is carried out on a voluntary basis and at their own expense by the officers and members of the Council, most of whom have to travel considerable distances to do this work. Our principal expenses are for telephone, typing and printing, advertising, conference venues, and travelling.

*The work of the Council may be summarised as follows:*

1. **Provision of information and counselling** to individual *adoptive parents* who may have problems in relation to particular aspects of adoption, advising *prospective adopters* on adoption procedures, etc., and advising and directing *adopted people* and *birth parents* who may desire to make contact with their birth parent or adult child.
2. **Arranging open meetings** for adopted people, adoptive parents, birth parents, social workers and other interested people. These always evoke a positive response and an increase in requests for support from people in difficulty.
3. **Campaigning vigorously** for the establishment of a properly regulated contact register and information centre for adopted

people and birth mothers, as the current lack of entitlement to information is giving rise to considerable individual unhappiness in many instances. *In this regard we have operated as an individual organisation, as well as in association with an ad-hoc group.*

4. Since 1976, we have campaigned successfully for necessary changes in Adoption Law, and we were especially involved in campaigning for The Adoption of Legitimate Children Bill. – the Adoption Act, 1988 and The Foreign Adoption Bill.– the Adoption Act, 1991.

**A**DVICE AND SUPPORT: Some adoptive families require advice and support in relation to difficulties that may occasionally arise from adoption, or the process of adoption, as in *delays in consent, or disputed cases, or difficulties in addressing the needs of adopted adolescents* who may have questions about their identity. A number of our members have the capacity and experience to provide the type of counselling and information required. We see this role as an important element of our work as an Association.

We expect the demands on our advice service to intensify because of our vigorous campaign for the introduction of a **Contact Register**.

*As so much of our advice work is by telephone, it is worth giving some examples of the many and varied calls we get, which generally increase noticeably following media coverage on any aspect of adoption, and also after the Christmas period.*

**CALLS FROM PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS:** *Calls from couples hoping to adopt a child vary from those for whom the APAI is their first call of enquiry, to those for whom the call is a last resort.*

Depending on the age of the couple we generally recommend that they contact **The Adoption Board** requesting a list of the adoption agencies in their area and their **Adoption Information Package**.

We usually suggest that they make an appointment with a social worker in their local Health Board to discuss all aspects of Irish adoption, foreign adoption and short- and long-term fostering.

For couples who have been refused or given no hope of getting on an agency adoption list, we recommend that they examine long-term fostering if they have not already done so, and also to consider foreign adoption. Again, the Adoption Board is the place to contact for a list of 'designated countries'. These are countries where the Board is satisfied that *their respective adoption laws comply with the definition of a foreign adoption specified under Section 1 of the Adoption Act, 1991*. An appointment with a social worker in the local Health Board is necessary, to discuss the various options and to establish the requirements for a Home Study, which is *essential in order to adopt from abroad*.

We supply names, addresses, and telephone numbers of various groups associated with different countries and in particular we recommend that couples contact the Foreign Adoption Action Group. We also suggest that they write to Barnardo's, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, requesting a copy of their comprehensive booklist dealing with all aspects of Irish and foreign adoption.

**CALLS FROM ADOPTIVE PARENTS:** *Calls are varied and may include the following:*

1. Cases where the natural mother fails, refuses or neglects to sign the final consent, and the adoptive parents do not know what to do: As no two cases are ever the same it is difficult to summarise the type of help or support offered. We usually put couples in touch with others who have had similar experiences, and members often travel to meet the parents in these situations. We try to offer a balance of opinions by suggesting that parents talk to couples whose decision it was to initiate legal proceedings under Section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1974. *We would consider it important not to influence the decision made by any couple but*

*to support them in their own decision.*

It is our experience that a number of birth mothers are simply looking for reassurance that the child they relinquished is well and happy. A promise of ongoing letters and photographs through the placing agency is often sufficient for the birth mother to return to her original decision. For this reason we would suggest that the adopting couple write to the birth parent(s) through the agency, expressing their love for the child and offering reassurance that the child is well and happy, before they make a final decision.

Couples are often wary that what they write will only upset the mother further, or are too emotional to know where to start. For this reason we have a number of sample letters which we can offer to couples in these circumstances. *(Obviously we do not suggest that the couples copy a letter word-for-word, but it may just provide the trigger for them to find their own 'voice')*

**Whether the child remains with the adopting couple, or is returned to the birth parent(s), the exchange of letters offers a source of comfort for the grieving party.**

**2. Couples seeking information on telling and talking to a young child about adoption:** In these situations we can put people in touch with other adoptive parents in their area, and a number of long-lasting friendships have formed as a result. Barnardo's have a very good booklist for children and parents in this age group. They also do parenting nights which are very informative and enjoyable.

**3. Parents experiencing difficulties with teenagers:** Very often parents need reassurance that *their teenager* is the very same as *teenagers world-wide*. Once again, the booklist from Barnardo's and introductions to other adoptive parents with teenagers is very often all that is needed to put matters into perspective.

Occasionally a young adult may experience identity problems and



we would suggest that the parents verbalise their feelings of love for their son or daughter and insist on respect and consideration for their own feelings.

Confrontations which include 'you're not my real parents anyway' or 'when I find my real mother' should be treated lightly but sensitively, as this is usually a cry for reassurance and very often is a throw-back to outsiders' comments - for example, on how 'lucky' they were to be adopted. We suggest that there should be a more open, relaxed and maybe humorous attitude to adoption in the home. Perhaps a visit to the placing agency to discuss background information, or for more up to date information, would be helpful. Booklists for teenagers and their parents are also available from Barnardo's.

While most teenagers exhibit varying degrees of bizarre and/or disturbed behaviour at times, most of us remember that we ourselves went through similar episodes in our own youth! Occasionally a child will display symptoms which are outside the experience of many of us, and for which more professional help should be sought. Sometimes adopted children have had early experiences which have disturbed the development of basic trust and conscience formation. There is now recognition of *Reactive Attachment Disorder*, which manifests in a variety of ways, and for people who feel they require more information we would suggest they contact Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services (PPIAS). for address see page 53.

**4. Parents whose adult child has been reunited with the birth mother:** Sometimes parents are amazed and horrified at their own reactions when their child has made a good trace or reunion, even when this reunion was with their blessing and encouragement. Unexpected feelings of jealousy or resentment - or even rage - may overwhelm them, and this, coupled with horror at their reactions, can have a very unsettling effect. They should not feel that they are in any way abnormal in this, but rather to see it as a natural

reaction to any perceived threat to their happy family situation. The birth parent may seem to be the personification of all that the adoptive parent is not – almost always younger, and possibly in a position to offer things that the adoptive parents cannot afford. In the excitement of the reunion the adoptive parents may feel a bit let down and cast aside. *Almost certainly, this will pass!* In all new friendships there is a 'honeymoon period' when the new person seems to fulfil all expectations to the exclusion of everyone else. In due course they generally take their rightful place in the scheme of things, and life goes on! Where an adoption has been a normal, happy one, it is rare for a child to forsake his or her family.

Throughout their lives, our children – adopted or otherwise – will have relationships other than those of the immediate family, and this is the natural order. Some of these relationships will be to our liking and some not. In most instances, parents are delighted that their child has made some contact with his or her past, and do not find it threatening to their relationship with the child.

Where a reunion has not been a happy occasion, whether from over-expectation on anyone's part or for whatever reason, it is vitally important to offer encouragement, reassurance and love.

**The most anyone should expect from a reunion is friendship, and in some cases even this may not be forthcoming.**

***CALLS FROM BIRTH PARENTS:** Our Association receives a surprisingly large number of calls from birth parents, and this is most common around significant dates: when the adopted child is about seven years old and again when the child is approaching eighteen or twenty-one.*

Many birth mothers enquire if it would be acceptable for the agency to contact the adoptive parents for up-to-date information and photographs. Some ask if a meeting with the child and/or parents is a viable proposition. These are decisions for agencies and individual couples to make, and the responses to such requests are wide and varied.

We usually recommend that the birth parent contact the agency with a letter and photograph. These could be left on file for the child, in the event that the agency declines to make contact with the adoptive parents, *which is the usual practice when the child is under eighteen*. In many instances birth mothers have told us that talking to an adoptive parent about their fears and feelings has been a great help and comfort. *Support and counselling groups for birth parents are available from a number of sources, and addresses and contact numbers are supplied by our Association, and are listed elsewhere in this book.*

In some instances the birth mother is petrified when she receives a call from the placing agency asking if she would agree to a reunion. It may come as a great shock to her to discover old feelings of hurt, rejection or loneliness coming to the surface, feelings which she thought had been buried at the time of the adoption. She may be terrified at the prospect of meeting this baby-become-adult, thinking she will be condemned for placing the child for adoption in the first place. This is very unlikely to happen, as most young adults are just delighted to make contact, and are much too intelligent and sympathetic to judge anyone in that manner.

It is also possible that she hasn't told anyone about what happened so many years ago, and is afraid of being 'found out'. Until she has come to terms with her past, there is no need for her to fear establishing contact. Placing agencies are used to maintaining confidentiality, and can organise meetings discreetly and arrange for letters to go through a trusted third party.

It really is a better idea to get to know each other by letters and photographs first, through the placing agency. This pen-friendship can remove a lot of the awkwardness from the first meeting, which is bound to be emotional anyway! We are often asked 'but what will I say?', 'what if I cry?' or 'how will I justify what I did?' – a hug speaks louder than words, and if there are tears – so what! As for justifying decisions made so many years ago – no-one should have to torture themselves over decisions made in the past, which

were seen at the time to be in the very best interests of the child. *It really is very important that the birth mother get counselling before the reunion. This counselling need not be in her own town, if it is a small place, and will always be conducted discreetly and in confidence. The reunion also, will be somewhere acceptable to her.*

**THE ADULT ADOPTED PERSON:** *We receive many calls from adult adopted people at home and from abroad, who are hoping to make contact with their birth mother, or simply trying to get some background information.*

Some years ago the Adoptive Parents Association initiated the campaign for a **National Contact Register**, for the purpose of facilitating adult adoptees and their birth parents, should they wish to exchange information or to meet. Since then we have been actively involved with other groups in the adoption field, working for the establishment of a government-funded Register. While progress has been very slow, we have reason now to feel confident that at last there is recognition of the necessity for a Contact Register. The Adoption Board – inter alia – is itself very keen on the setting up of such a Register. There has been considerable success in raising awareness on this issue with agencies and social workers. All of this work has resulted in an increased availability of non-identifying information, and a recognition of the need for a more open approach and the necessity *for counselling for all involved in the 'adoption triangle' – adopted people, adoptive parents and birth parents.*

The majority of calls to our Association are from adult adoptees. A small number did not know about their adoption until their late teens or early adulthood and there is obviously a difficulty in communication with some adoptive parents on this issue. In these instances our members offer emotional and practical support, and will speak with the parents on behalf of the adoptee, where this is requested.

In some cases, the parents just found it very difficult to broach the subject when the child was young enough for it not to matter, and

then as the child got older there never seemed to be a 'right time' to tell. Times really *were* different not too long ago, and many parents 'forgot' their child was adopted. For whatever reason, it was never out of malice.

Nowadays it would be most unusual for a child not to be told 'their story' very early on, so that they grow up with an acceptance of their adoption in the family. But for another generation this presented often insurmountable problems of communication. *In some instances there is no doubt that the parents thought the child might reject them if they knew they weren't their 'real' parents.*

A significant number of calls are from people whose adoptive parent(s) have recently died, or from those who have married or have just started their families. We try to address the fears and worries involved in seeking contact, because in our experience feelings of disloyalty towards adoptive parents, or fears of rejection, are very common.

It is important to establish that there are no unrealistic expectations on either side, and that the adopted person is prepared for all eventualities, including rejection. For this reason it is necessary to receive counselling, and this will always be discreet and confidential.

*The placing agency will advise, as will Barnardo's, and there are various counselling groups and adult adoptee support groups whose names and addresses are elsewhere in this book.*

search **Tracing** contact

**T**RACING BY AN ADOPTED PERSON OR A BIRTH MOTHER:  
At some stage, many adopted people and many birth mothers decide they would like to find out more about themselves or each other. It is to be hoped that a **National Contact Register** will be established soon to enable people to make contact more easily. In the meantime, there are ways in which they can do this themselves - with varying degrees of success!

**It must be stressed that these procedures take time!** It is *never* a case of opening a file and handing over a name and address. People move house, marry, emigrate, etc., and of course, unfortunately sometimes people die before contact can be made. The adopted person may be slow to respond to overtures, out of consideration for their adoptive parents' feelings, thinking that they may be offended, or perhaps they may just not be ready for such encounters. The birth mother may be reluctant to re-open memories of past hurts, loneliness and rejection by a partner. It is possible that she never told her family or husband that she had a child which was placed for adoption, or perhaps she is afraid that she will be rejected by the adopted person. There are many reasons why tracing can be a slow process, and because of this, social workers will always try to deal with both sides in the least intrusive way. **Perseverance and patience are important, and where possible, counselling should be availed of!**

It is always a good idea to write a letter and leave it on file with the adoption society for the adopted person or birth mother, so it will already be there if the other person decides to look for information or contact. **Omit your surname and address, at this time.** This is information which you should keep to yourself until later, and the society will not give out your address to anyone without your permission. Only when you are certain that the relationship has progressed to the point of absolute trust in each other, should you pass on this personal information. You may if you like include a photograph and express your interest in having an exchange of information, or a reunion, whatever you wish.

## TRACING BY AN ADOPTED PERSON, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND:

1. When the Adoption Society through which the person was adopted is known, write a letter to the society expressing an interest in exchanging information, or requesting up-to-date information on birth mother, e.g. health, marital status, other children, etc. If a meeting is desired, ask if it could be arranged. When writing, give: own name , date of birth , adoptive parents' names and address , at time of your adoption , your present surname if it was changed through marriage, and current address and telephone number or contact address where post may be sent, if privacy is desired. Send a copy of the long birth certificate if possible.

2. When the Adoption Society is not known, write to the Adoption Board, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2, giving all known information, as above. They should be able to provide the name of the Adoption Society. It is then necessary to write to the Adoption Society, as in No: 1

## TRACING BY A BIRTH MOTHER:

Sometimes the circumstances were so traumatic for the birth mother that she cannot remember the agency through which her child was placed for adoption, or perhaps the placing agency has been de-registered. She should write to the Adoption Board, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2 giving them her name and address at the time of the birth , the name of the hospital , date of birth and gender of child , and any other remembered information . She should also give them her present name , address and phone number , or a contact address *if particular privacy is desired, for whatever reason*. The Adoption Board should be in a position to discover the name of the placing agency, and in the case of a de-registered agency, where their files are kept.

When the adoption society through which the adoption was made is known, similar information should be sent to that agency.



### SAMPLE LETTER FROM AN ADOPTED PERSON TO ADOPTION SOCIETY

I was adopted through your agency and I would be interested in having more up-to-date information on my background, please. I list my personal details below:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Names of Adoptive Parents:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Their address at the time of the adoption, if different:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact address: (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone number: (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

Would it be possible to have an exchange of information/  
photograph/meeting?

### SAMPLE LETTER FROM BIRTH MOTHER TO ADOPTION SOCIETY

I placed a child for adoption through your Society in..(year) As the child is now an adult, and the possibility of disrupting the lives of the adoptive family has probably lessened with time, I would be most obliged if you could make some enquiries on my behalf. Would an exchange of information and photographs be acceptable? Naturally I would respect his/her wishes in this regard. I would understand if he/she was not yet ready for such contact, in which case perhaps you could keep the information on file for the future. The details as they were at the time of the adoption are given below:

My name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 My date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and place of birth of baby: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of baby: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date adoption order was made: (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
 My current name: (if changed through marriage) \_\_\_\_\_  
 My current address and phone number: (or contact address) \_\_\_\_\_

***Obviously, this is a sample letter, and must be modified to suit, omitting inappropriate references and including whatever personal information so desired.***

## ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The law was changed in England and Wales by the Children Act of 1975, and in Northern Ireland by the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order of 1987, which became operative from 1st October 1989. Adopted people now have the right to get a copy of their original birth certificate if they want it, from the age of 18. In Scotland, since 1930, adopted people over the age of 17 have been able to see their original birth records. (Most people who have applied to see their records since the law changed have been between ages 20 and 39, or older) People adopted before 1975 who want their birth certificates and the name of the agency which arranged the adoption are first required to talk to a counsellor. People who were adopted after 1975 do not have to see a counsellor, but can do so if they wish.

**We would recommend counselling for all involved. *The purpose of counselling is: to give the adopted person basic information about his/her adoption; to help the adopted person to understand some of the possible effects of his/her enquiries; to explain regulations and procedures relating to adoption.***

The law requires a person adopted before 1975 in England and Wales, and 1987 in Northern Ireland, to see a counsellor before he/she can be given access to his birth records because the natural and adoptive parents may have been led to believe that the child being adopted would never be able to find out his/her original name or the names of the natural parents. These arrangements were made in good faith, and it is important to understand what an investigation into the past may mean for the adopted person and for other people.

Anyone resident abroad who wishes to apply for access to birth records under the provisions of the Children Act 1975 or Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and who intends to visit the area, - England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland - should apply on the appropriate form well in advance of the proposed visit, giving

approximate dates of arrival and departure, and indicating where he/she wishes to see a counsellor, e.g., Health & Social Services Board in whose area the adoption was made, or an adoption society which arranged the adoption if the society was registered before the Adoption Order 1987.

The counsellor can tell you: your original names; the name of your natural mother; possibly the name of your natural father; and the name of the court where the order was made. With this information you will then be able to obtain a copy of your birth certificate, if you wish. The birth certificate gives the following information: date and place of birth; name under which you were originally registered; mother's name and perhaps her occupation; mother's name and address at that time; name and address of the person who registered the birth - usually the mother; date of registration and the name of the registrar. It may or may not give the father's name and occupation. If a child's parents are not married to each other the father's name is not always on the birth certificate.

Depending on how and when the adoption was arranged, there may be other information available. The adoption could have been arranged through an adoption society or a Health and Social Services Board, or a former welfare authority (whose duties were taken over by Boards in 1973), or through an individual such as a doctor, solicitor, or friend, or the mother could have arranged it on her own, privately.

Some children are adopted by grandparents or other relatives and there have also been numerous adoptions by a natural parent with a step-parent. The counsellor will not have this information but will be able to give an authorisation to ask the court which made the adoption order for the name of the adoption society or Board, if any, which took part in the arrangements for the adoption. If the court records are still available and the court is able to give you the name of the relevant adoption society or Board, you will be able to make enquiries with them.

There can be no certainty that any additional background information exists. Under former adoption legislation adoption societies were only required to keep their records for 25 years and court records are not kept indefinitely. Health and Social Services Boards' records may not go back far enough to include people whose adoption took place many years ago, or records may have been lost or destroyed. Old records are often brief and details you are looking for may not be included.

*The above information was obtained (a) from leaflets from BAAF and (b) from a leaflet which is obtained from the DHSS Department of Health and Social Services 'Access to Birth Records' Information for Adopted Persons. This leaflet also contains application forms for access to birth records by a person adopted before or after 1975 England and Wales, and before the 18th or after 17th December 1987 Northern Ireland. As explained previously, those adopted prior to the relevant date, must avail of counselling first.*

Since 1st May 1991 an official Contact Register has been operated by the Registrar General. There is a fee. Write to the Adoption Section of:

The General Registrar's Office  
Oxford House, 49-55 Chichester Street,  
Belfast BT1 4HL, Northern Ireland.

The General Registrar's Office  
Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Southport,  
Merseyside PR8 2HH, England.

The General Registrar's Office  
New Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3Y1, Scotland.

# ~~Fuller~~ **An Outline of Adoption Law** ~~Method~~

**T**his information is contained in a booklet which may be had by contacting the Adoption Board, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2. Telephone 01-671 5888.

*The booklet has been prepared by them 'for the benefit of people thinking of adopting, giving a broad outline of adoption law and procedure. It does not purport to be a detailed account of the provisions of the Adoption Act nor to be a legal interpretation thereof'.*

It answers many questions such as:

**WHAT IS ADOPTION?** Adoption is a process by which a child becomes a member of a new family. It creates a permanent legal relationship between the adoptive parents and the child.

**WHO ARRANGES ADOPTIONS?** The registered adoption societies and the health boards are the only agencies legally entitled to place children for adoption.

**WHAT IS AN ADOPTION ORDER?** An adoption order secures in law the position of the child in the adoptive family. On the making of the adoption order the natural parent(s) lose(s) all legal rights over the child and is/are freed from all duties. These rights and duties are transferred to the adoptive parents. **The child is regarded in law as the child of the adoptive parents as if he/she were born to them in marriage. Legal adoption is permanent.**

**THE ADOPTION BOARD:** All applications for adoption orders are made to the Adoption Board, an independent statutory body. The Board consists of a chairman and eight ordinary members appointed by the Government. The primary function of the Board is to grant or refuse applications for adoption orders. It also has responsibility for registering and supervising the adoption societies.

**ADOPTABLE CHILDREN:** The law permits the adoption of (a) orphans, and (b) children born outside marriage, including in certain circumstances, children whose natural parents subsequently marry

each other. In addition, in exceptional cases, the High Court may make orders under **Section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1988** authorising the adoption of children whose parents have failed in their duty towards them. Children born within marriage may be adopted under this provision.

A child born outside marriage who is legitimated by the subsequent marriage of the natural parents is eligible for adoption provided his/her birth has not been re-registered. A child born to a married woman but whose husband is not the father, is eligible for adoption provided the facts of the child's paternity can be proven to the satisfaction of the Adoption Board.

*The child must reside in the State, be at least six weeks old and under 18 years of age. The child need not have been born in this country.*

**THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD:** Adoption is for the benefit of children. The child is the most important person in the whole process. This principle is embodied in the law, which requires the Adoption Board, or any court, when dealing with any matter relating to an adoption, to regard the welfare of the child as the first and paramount consideration.

**THE CHILD'S WISHES:** The Adoption Board must take into account the wishes of a child who is more than seven years of age at the date of the application for the adoption order.

**WHO MAY ADOPT?** The following persons are eligible to adopt:

(a) **a married couple living together** This is the only circumstance where the law permits the adoption of a child by more than one person.

(b) **a married person alone** In this circumstance the spouse's consent to adopt must be obtained, unless they are living apart and are separated under (1) a court decree or (2) deed of separation or (3) the spouse has deserted the prospective adopter or (4) conduct on the part of the spouse results in the prospective adopter, with just cause, leaving the spouse and living apart.

**(c) the mother, father or a relative of the child** (relationship to a child born outside marriage is traced through the mother only)

**(d) a widow or widower**

*A person who does not come within the classes of person defined under (c) and (d) above may only adopt where the Board is satisfied that, in the particular circumstances of the case, it is desirable to grant an order.*

**AGES OF ADOPTERS:** Minimum ages A couple adopting a child to whom they are not related must both be at least 21 years of age. Where the child is being adopted by a married couple and one of them is the natural mother or father or a relative of the child, only one of them must have attained the age of 21 years. Upper ages: The law does not lay down upper age limits for adopting parents. However, age is a significant factor when assessing a couple's suitability to adopt and most adoption agencies apply their own upper age limits.

**RESIDENCY OF ADOPTERS:** Adopting parents must be ordinarily resident in the State and have been so resident for at least one year before the date of the making of the adoption order.

**RELIGION:** Where the adopting parents, the child and the natural parent(s) are not all of the same religion, the natural parent(s) must know the religion (if any) of each of the adopting parents when giving consent to the child's adoption.

**SUITABILITY:** The Adoption Board cannot make an adoption order unless it is satisfied that each of the adopting parents is a suitable person to have parental rights and duties in respect of the child.

**CONSENT:** Whose consent is required? The consent of every person being a parent or guardian of the child or having charge of or control over the child is normally required to (a) the placing of the child for adoption, and (b) the making of an adoption order for the child.



As most adoptable children are born outside marriage, the consent of the natural mother only is normally required.

**The consent of the natural father is required where** (a) he marries the natural mother after the birth of the child, or (b) he is appointed a guardian of the child or is granted custody of the child pursuant to a court order or otherwise.

**Consent to Placement:** Where the child's adoption is being arranged by a registered adoption society, the natural mother, natural father (if applicable) or guardian must give an initial consent or agreement to the placing of the child for adoption by the society. This may be given at any time after the birth of the child.

**Consent to Adoption Order:** Consent to the making of an adoption order may not be given until the child is at least six weeks old. It may not be given earlier than three months before the date of the application for the adoption order.

**Consent to the making of an adoption order may be withdrawn at any time before the making of the adoption order.**

**Consent to the making of an adoption order must be given in a form prescribed by the Adoption Rules.**

**The Adoption Board must satisfy itself that every person who has given consent to the making of an adoption order understands the nature and effect of the consent and of the adoption order and of certain legal rights.** In order to comply with this requirement, the Board appoints 'authorised persons' to interview the consenting party (usually the natural mother) on its behalf. After the person has given consent he/she is interviewed by an 'authorised person' who completes a questionnaire with him/her.

**DISPENSING WITH CONSENT:** The Adoption Board may dispense with consent if it is satisfied that the person whose consent is required is incapable by reason of mental infirmity of giving consent, or cannot be found.

Where a natural mother who has initially agreed to the placing of her child for adoption fails, neglects, or refuses to give her consent to the making of an adoption order, or withdraws a consent already given, it is open to the adopting parents, if they have applied for an adoption order for the child, to apply to the High Court for an order under Section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1974. The High Court, if it is satisfied that it is in the best interest of the child to do so, may make an order under that section (a) giving custody of the child to the adopting parents for a specified period, and (b) authorising the Adoption Board to dispense with the mother's consent to the making of an adoption order in favour of them during that period.

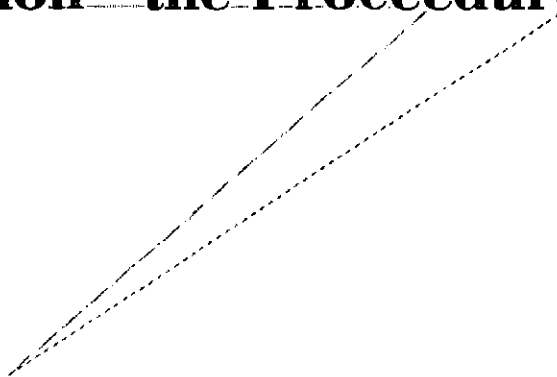
**Consent is not required to the adoption of a child in respect of whom the High Court has made an order under Section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1988.**

**RECLAIM OF CHILD:** If a natural mother changes her mind about adoption before the making of the adoption order and seeks to reclaim her child but the adopting parents refuse to give up the child, then it is open to her to institute legal proceedings to have custody of the child restored to her.

**BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND ADOPTED CHILDREN:** When an adoption order is made, a new 'birth' certificate may be obtained for the child. The certificate issued is not an actual birth certificate but a certified copy of the entry relating to the child in the Adopted Children Register. However, for all legal purposes it has the status of a birth certificate. The long form of the certificate gives the date of the adoption order, and the name(s) and address of the adoptive parent(s).

**RE-ADOPTION:** The only circumstances in which a further adoption order may be made for the same child are: (a) where his/her adoptive parents (or parent in the case of the sole adopter) have died or (b) the High Court makes an order under Section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1988 in respect of the child.

# path Adoption - the Procedureway



1. A natural parent or relative wishing to adopt a child either alone or with a spouse should contact The Adoption Board for information as to the procedure involved.

2. A couple wishing to have a child placed with them for adoption should apply to a registered adoption society or their local health board. *The societies are listed elsewhere in this book.* As there are far more couples wanting to adopt than there are children available for adoption, not all couples who apply to an adoption agency will be successful.

3. A couple being considered by an adoption agency will have to undergo a detailed assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to establish the couple's suitability as prospective adoptive parents. The assessment will be carried out by one of the agency's social workers. It will include a number of joint and individual interviews and visits to the couple's home. The social worker will discuss such areas as the couple's relationship, their motives for adopting, their expectations of the child and their ability to help the child to a knowledge and understanding of his natural background. The couple will also have to undergo a medical examination.

4. If a couple are accepted by an adoption agency and have a child placed with them, the next step is to apply to the Adoption Board for an adoption order. Certain documents must be sent to the Board in support of the application. The agency will know what documents are required and will probably already have obtained them from the couple before placement.

5. The Adoption Board cannot make an adoption order unless it is satisfied as to the suitability of the adopting parents. The Board has a team of social workers who visit the homes of applicants for adoption orders, and report to the Board on their suitability. On receipt of an application for an adoption order, the Board assigns one of its social workers to the application. The social worker will normally make at least two visits to the applicants' home.

6. The Adoption Board does not usually finalise an adoption until

the adopting parents have had the child in their care for at least six months. The Board may require the applicants to have the child in their care for a longer period in certain circumstances.

7. When the Adoption Board is satisfied that an adoption is ready to be finalised, it will invite the adopting parents to attend before it, with the child, for the hearing of their application. At the oral hearing, the applicants are asked certain questions on oath in order to establish their identity and eligibility to adopt. If these questions are answered to the satisfaction of the Board, the Board then makes the adoption order.

**No fees are payable to the Adoption Board in consideration of an adoption application.**

**ADOPTION ACT 1991.** Recognition of certain adoptions effected outside the State by Irish residents:

**1. Pre-1st April 1991 cases:** Persons who effected the adoption of a child abroad before the 1st April 1991 will be entitled to have their adoption recognised provided *(a) they are eligible to adopt under Irish law, and (b) the adoption complies with the terms of the definition of a foreign adoption under the Act and (c) the child or adopted person was under 21 years of age at the date of the adoption*, if effected prior to commencement of the Act and *under 18 years of age*, if effected after the commencement date (i.e. 31.5.1991)

**Adopters may apply to the Adoption Board for recognition.**

**2. Persons with written Immigration Clearances:** Persons who made a request in writing to the Department of Justice before the 1st April 1991 for a written immigration clearance for an adopted child and who received such a clearance will be entitled to have their adoptions recognised on the same basis as the pre-1st April cases provided that their adoptions were effected before the 1st July 1991.

**3. All other cases** All other persons resident here who wish to adopt abroad are required to have their eligibility and suitability established before they travel abroad, if their adoption is to be recognised.

The Adoption Board has responsibility for determining eligibility and suitability. However, the first step is to have a suitability assessment carried out. The suitability assessments may only be carried out by a health board or a registered adoption society. In accordance with Section 8(1) of the Act, a health board must carry out assessments for persons ordinarily resident in its functional area. Registered adoption societies may carry out assessments on behalf of health boards or at the request of those wishing to adopt abroad, but are not obliged to do so.

When a suitability assessment report has been prepared by a health board or a registered adoption society, the proposed adopters may apply to the Adoption Board for a declaration of their suitability and eligibility.

Where the Board makes a declaration in favour of the proposed adopters, it will give them a copy of the declaration and the suitability assessment report. The proposed adopters can produce these documents to the foreign adoption authorities as evidence that they have been approved for an inter-country adoption by the Irish adoption authority.

*The Department of Justice will not issue an immigration clearance until persons who propose adopting abroad successfully complete the new procedures and have a declaration made in their favour.*

A fundamental prerequisite to the granting of recognition is that the foreign adoption fully complies with the definition of a foreign adoption specified in the Act. Accordingly, it cannot be presumed that the granting of recognition will necessarily follow upon the making of a declaration of eligibility and suitability.

**Persons wishing to have their suitability and eligibility established in accordance with the new procedures outlined should contact their local health board for further information.**

**MEMBERS OF THE ADOPTION BOARD**

Virginia Rochford B.C.L. .... *Solicitor, Chairman*

Patrick Durcan B.C.L. .... *Solicitor, Deputy Chairman*

Geraldine Shanley B.C.L. .... *Solicitor*

Brian Doolan

Stephen Byrne .... *Barrister*

Orlaith Traynor .... *Solicitor*

Vivienne Darling M.A.

Nora Nowlan B.A. (mod)

Deirdre MacIntyre M.A.

David Wolfe .... *Registrar*

Conor Burke M.D., F.R.C.P.I., M.R.C.P.(U.K.).

F.C.C.P. .... *Consultant Physician, Medical Adviser*

placements **Adoptions Societies** parents





### HEALTH BOARDS

All Health Boards are required to provide an Adoption Service in their areas. Each Health Board has a social work service for people living within its area. Most have qualified people dealing with adoption matters, providing information and counselling. See local telephone directory, or phone the Department of Health.

*Telephone: 01 - 671 4711*

### THE ADOPTION BOARD

Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2. Will help and advise anyone, anywhere, on matters relating to adoption, both Irish and foreign, without charge.

*Telephone: 01-671 5888*

*Facsimile: 01-671 5888-2969*

### CENAMH ®

30 South Anne Street, Dublin 2. Provide a wide range of services for single mothers and their children including counselling, arranging ante-natal accommodation, ante-natal and post-natal medical care, foster care, adoption, and assistance for girls who keep their babies. Contact: Anne Ronayne.

*Telephone: 01-677 9664*

### PACT ®

(Protestant Adoption Society) 15 Belgrave Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Support and Counselling Service for Single Parents. (Records of former Protestant adoption societies are held by PACT). Contact: Hazel Douglas.

*Telephone: 01-497 6788*

### RGAS ®

(Rotunda Girls' Aid Society).

1A Cathedral Street, Dublin 1. Work includes counselling service for single mothers as well as adoption. Contact: Maria Hayes 10am-5pm.

*Telephone: 01-874 4262*

### ST BRIGID'S ORPHANAGE ®

Holy Faith Convent, 16 The Coombe, Dublin 8 (formerly St Brigid's Orphanage, Iona Road, Glasnevin). Will be de-® as an adoption society on the 1st February 1997, but tracing work will continue as long as needed. Contact: Sr Benignus 9am-2pm.

*Telephone: 01-454 2917.*

*01-454 0244*

**•ST LOUISE ADOPTION SOCIETY ®**

(Secretary) 1st Floor, Park House, North Circular Road Dublin 7.

*Telephone: 01-838 7122*

**ST. PATRICK'S GUILD ®**

82 Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Provide a confidential counselling service for mothers and families. Short and long-term care of children, including adoption if required Contact: Sr Gabriel Murphy, Anne Byrne.

*Telephone: 01-668 1765  
& 01-668 1908*

**ST. THÉRÈSE ADOPTION SOCIETY**

Whitefriar Street, Dublin 8, de-® but very limited records kept by the Adoption Board.

**SOUTHERN HEALTH BOARD  
ADOPTION SERVICE**

Room 10, Floor 2, Abbeycourt House, George's Quay, Cork  
Contact: Anne Murphy, Senior Social Worker

*Telephone: 021-965 511*

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S AID**

Cork, de-®, but very limited records kept by the Adoption Board, Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2.

*Telephone: 01-671 5888*

**SACRED HEART ADOPTION  
SOCIETY ®**

Blackrock, Cork. This Society has the records of the following:

**Sacred Heart Adoption Society**, Castlepollard, County Westmeath, de-®

**Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea**, County Tipperary, still ®.  
Contact: Sr Surto

*Telephone: 021-357730  
& 021-357841*

**St Anne's Adoption Society**, ® Cork & Ross Family Centre, 34 Paul St., Cork Diocesan based voluntary child care society, and adoption society. Contact: Ruth Murray

*Telephone: 021-273213  
Facsimile: 021-270932*

**St Mary's Adoption Society**, Tralee, County Kerry is being de-®, but work continues and records are kept by the Southern Health Board (Kerry), 18-20 Denny Street, Tralee, County Kerry 9am-1.30pm, 2.30-5pm. Contact: Veronica Carey

*Telephone: 066-22524 or  
(main) 066-21566*

**Limerick Catholic Adoption Society**, ® Unit 3 St. Camillus Hospital, Shelbourne Road, Limerick.

*Telephone: 061-326677 \*\**

**St Catherine's Adoption Society.** @ Clarecare, Harmony Row, Ennis, County Clare. Contact: Mary Lillis, Joan O'Keeffe, Michelle Dowling

*Telephone: 065-28178*

**St Kevin's Adoption Society.** @ South Eastern Health Board, 32 The Mall, Waterford. Contact: Patrick Conaty  
*Telephone: 051-78574*

**& Kitty Greaney**  
*Telephone: 058-42199*

**Challenge Adoption Society and Counselling Service for Single and Adoptive Parents** Waterford Road, Kilkenny: subsumed since 1.4.1995,  
*and*

**St John's Adoption Society.** Waterford. de-@, but records for both societies are kept by **St Kevin's Adoption Society.**

**CLANN Western Regional Adoption Service.** Child Care Unit, Finahce Building, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway. @ applied for, Adoption/tracing. Contact: Mary T. Gormley, Anne McCarthy

*Telephone: 091-751131*  
*extension: 311*

**St Nicholas' Adoption Society.** Galway. de-@, records kept by **CLANN**

**St Mura's Adoption Society.** @ Pastoral Centre, Cathedral View, Letterkenny, County Donegal. Contact: Moya Campbell

*Telephone: 074-21853*  
*& 074-22218*

**St Attracta's Adoption Society.** @ St Mary's, Sligo  
*Telephone: 071-43058*

\* These societies are operated by staff of the Eastern Health Board and South-Eastern Health Board respectively:

\*\* these in association with the local Health Boards.

**MIDLAND HEALTH BOARD, ADOPTION & FOSTERING SERVICE.**

Arden Road, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

**Laois/Offaly**  
*Telephone: 0506-41301*  
Contact: Marie Enright-Poole, Senior Social Worker.

**Longford/Westmeath**  
*Telephone: 043-46211*  
Contact: Margaret Groarke

**CHILD CARE ADOPTION &  
FOSTERING UNIT ®**

Regional Child and Family  
Centre, St Mary's Hospital,  
Dublin Road, Drogheda,  
County Louth Contact: Marie  
Lynch, Senior Social Worker

*Telephone: 041-32963*

**ST CLARE'S ADOPTION SOCIETY**  
Stamullen, County Meath de-  
®. Records kept by North  
Eastern Health Board

*Telephone: 041-32963*

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

**CATHOLIC FAMILY CARE**

Pastoral Centre 164 Bishop  
Street, Derry.

*Telephone: 0801-504-368592*

**CATHOLIC FAMILY CARE SOCIETY**

511 Ormeau Road, Belfast  
BT 7 3GS

*Telephone: 0801-232-691133*

**CHURCH OF IRELAND BOARD FOR  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (N.I.)**

Incorporating The Church of  
Ireland Social and Family  
Welfare Association (NI) and  
Adoption Society, Church of  
Ireland House, 12 Talbot  
Street, Belfast, BT1 2QH

*Telephone: 0801-232-233885*

In addition to their adoption  
service, they provide a post-  
adoption service which is open  
to all who have been involved  
in adoption. Co-ordinator /  
Social Worker: Ian Slaine.  
Part-time social Worker: Mrs.  
Patricia Gilbert

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &  
SOCIAL SERVICES, CHILD CARE  
BRANCH**

Dundonald House, Upper  
Newtownards Road, Belfast  
B24 3SF

*Telephone: 0801-232-252 000*

**ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES**

**BRITISH AGENCY FOR ADOPTION  
& FOSTERING (BAAF)**

Head Office: Skyline House,  
200 Union Street, London  
SE1 0LY, England. Adoption.  
Fostering, Tracing.  
Publications. Contact: Geoff  
Gurney, Deputy Director

*Telephone: 0044-171-593 2000*

*Facsimile: 0044-171-593 2001*

® - registered; de-® - de-registered

~~advice~~ **Adoption-related groups, counselling,  
counselling, advice and ancillary services**

**Because they provide other services under different headings some of these names and addresses are duplicated elsewhere in this book.**

#### **THE ADOPTION BOARD**

Hawkins House, Dublin 2.  
The Board provides information on all matters relating to both home and foreign adoption. There are no fees involved in adoption.  
*Telephone: 01-671 5888*

#### **HEALTH BOARDS**

Each Health Board has a social work service for people living within its area. Most have qualified people dealing with adoption matters, providing information and counselling. See local telephone directory or phone the Department of Health  
*Telephone: 01-671 4711*

#### **THE ADULT ADOPTEE ASSOCIATION**

c/o Wynn's Hotel, 35 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.  
Support Groups' monthly meetings: Wynn's Hotel, Dublin 1, last Tuesdays

Moore's Hotel, Morrison's Island, Cork, second Mondays  
Metropole Hotel, Kilkenny, last Mondays

#### **ADOPTIVE PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND**

Nationwide help, support and information to adoptive parents, adopted people, birth parents, and anyone with an interest in adoption matters.  
Public Relations Officer:  
Helen Scott, Albain, Piercetown, Dunboyne, County Meath.

*Telephone: 01-825 2043*

Secretary: Helen Gilmartin, Tomriland, Annamoe, Bray, County Wicklow.  
*Telephone: 0404-45183*

#### **ADOPTION ACTION**

c/o Anton Sweeney,  
Apartment 3, Gandon Hall,  
Lower Gardiner Street,  
Dublin 1. Working Group on Tracing. Contact: Enda Lowrey  
*Telephone: 01-836 8067*

#### **WRENCH**

(support group for birth parents) Contact: June  
Monday-Friday 10.30am - 12.30pm  
*Telephone: 01-494 1204*

**BARNARDO'S ADOPTION ADVICE SERVICE**

Christchurch Square, Dublin 8. Contacts: Patricia White, Norah Gibbons

*Telephone: 01-453 0355*

**Tuesday 2pm-5pm and Thursday 10am-2pm.**

*Confidential Telephone line: 01-454 6388*

Provide an independent, confidential, information, advice and counselling service.

**PARENTS OF ADOPTED ROMANIAN CHILDREN (PARC)**

C/o Marian Connolly, 53 Castletands, Balbriggan, County Dublin.

*Telephone: 01-841 1310*

**FOREIGN ADOPTION ACTION GROUP**

C/o Helen Dolan, Avondale, Seafield Road, Killiney, County Dublin

*Telephone (evenings): 01-282 4982*

**PACT**

(Protestant adoption society, which also provides support and counselling for single parents) 15 Belgrave Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6 Contact: Hazel Douglas

*Telephone: 01-497 6788*

**TREOIR**

Federation of Services for Single Parents and their Children 36 Upper Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Contact: Margaret Dromey & Margot Doherty

*Telephone: 01-496 4155*

**ACCORD**

Catholic Marriage Counselling Service (formerly Catholic Marriage Advisory Council) All Hallows, Gracepark Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Professional services including: marriage counselling, fertility counselling, sexual problems, marriage preparation courses, schools programmes, through 57 branches nationwide.

*Telephone: 01-837 1151*

*Facsimile: 01-837 3207*

**CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC ADOPTION SOCIETIES**

Chairperson: Mary Lillis  
Clarecare, Harmony Row, Ennis

*Telephone: 065-28178*

Vice-chairperson: Ita O'Brien  
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society, Unit 3 St Camillus Hospital, Shelbourne Road, Limerick

*Telephone: 061-326677*

Secretary: Julie Kerins,  
Cunamh, 30 South Anne Street  
Dublin 2.

*Telephone 01-677 9664*

**Purpose:** To enable adoption workers to meet and discuss common problems; to help adoption societies achieve high standards of work and to speak authoritatively in negotiations with the Adoption Board and the departments of state.

#### **CLARECARE**

Incorporating Clare Social Service Council, Harmony Row, Ennis, County Clare.  
Contact: Mary Lillis

*Telephone 065-28178*

Provides pregnancy testing, information, counselling, individual support and material aid for single parents.

Where necessary, accommodation away from home can be arranged. Other services might also be provided by referral to other Agencies. Where adoption has been arranged, counselling services are offered to both adoptive and birth parents.

#### **CURA**

30 South Anne St, Dublin 2 &  
300A Limestone Road, Belfast  
BT 15 3AR.

*Telephone Dublin: 01-671 0598  
and Belfast: 0801-232-742687*

Established by the Irish bishops as a means of offering information, advice and counselling to any woman, married or single, with an unwanted pregnancy. The confidential telephone service is staffed by people experienced in handling situations of this kind and works in close liaison with other services in the country.

*Confidential telephone contact services:*

<i>Athlone</i>	<i>0902-74272</i>
<i>Belfast</i>	<i>0801-232-740900</i>
<i>Kilkenny</i>	<i>056-22739</i>
<i>Cork</i>	<i>021-277544</i>
<i>Letterkenny</i>	<i>074-23037</i>
<i>Derry</i>	<i>0504-268467</i>
<i>Limerick</i>	<i>061-318207</i>
<i>Dublin</i>	<i>01- 671 0598</i>
<i>Sligo</i>	<i>071-43659</i>
<i>Dundalk</i>	<i>042-37533</i>
<i>Tralee</i>	<i>066-27355</i>
<i>Ennis</i>	<i>065-29905</i>
<i>Waterford</i>	<i>051-76452</i>
<i>Galway</i>	<i>091-562558</i>
<i>Wexford</i>	<i>053-22255</i>

#### **CENTRECARE**

Dublin Diocesan Social Service Centre, 1 Cathedral Street, Dublin 1.

*Telephone: 01-872 6775/874 5441  
Facsimile 01-872 7003.*



A social worker is available for consultation on any personal or social problem from 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday (closed for lunch 1-2pm) and Saturday 10am to 5pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm) and by appointment. Support and counselling available free of charge. Information is available on entitlements and on a wide range of services and helping agencies throughout the City.

Director: Kate Sheehan;  
Support/counselling:  
Geraldine Byrne;  
Information/advice/referral:  
John McHugh; Clerical  
officer: Lorraine Kelly  
O'Connor.

#### **DUBLIN COUNSELLING AND THERAPY CENTRE**

41 Upper Gardiner Street,  
Dublin 1.

Professional Services:  
Individual, family and  
couples. Counselling,  
psychotherapy, holotropic  
workshops. Diploma course in  
counselling and  
psychotherapy. Certificate  
course in counselling skills.

*Telephone: 01-878 8236*

#### **SACRED HEART HOSPITAL AND HOME**

Blackrock, Cork (for single,  
pregnant girls). Provide  
medical care for mother and  
baby, nursery and crèche,  
counselling and guidance  
facilities, and accommodation  
for single parent families.  
Second and third level  
education, training courses in  
association with FAS and Cork  
City VEC, job creation.

*Telephone: 021-357 823.*

#### **LIFE**

Pregnancy Helpline:

*Telephone: 01-6798989*

Drop in to: 29-30 Dame Street,  
Dublin 27 Grand Parade.

<i>Cork:</i>	<i>021-270 445</i>
<i>Galway:</i>	<i>091-566939</i>
<i>Letterkenny:</i>	<i>074-27007</i>
<i>Belfast:</i>	<i>0801-232-249 414</i>
<i>Derry:</i>	<i>0801-504-264 751</i>
<i>Newry:</i>	<i>0801-693-67083</i>
<i>Enniskillen:</i>	<i>0801-365-41725</i>

#### **ST ANNE'S DAY NURSERY**

Sharman Crawford Street, St  
Marie's of the Isle, Cork.  
Serves single parents who wish  
to return to work or to  
continue their studies.

*Telephone: 021-275 416*

## **RGAS**

Rotunda Girls' Aid Society,  
1A Cathedral St, Dublin 1  
Work includes counselling  
service for single mothers as  
well as adoption. 10am-5pm

*Telephone: 01-874 4262*

## **SOUTHERN HEALTH BOARD**

Adoption Department, Room  
10, Floor 2, Abbeycourt  
House, George's Quay, Cork.  
Contact: Anne Murphy,  
Senior Social Worker

*Telephone: 021-965511*

*Facsimile: 021-63822*

## **SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

Community Care Centre, Athy  
Road, Carlow. Contact: Alice  
Moore, Social Worker  
(Adoption)

*Telephone: 0503-31691*

## **CORK & ROSS FAMILY CENTRE**

Incorporating St Anne's  
Adoption Society, 34 Paul  
Street, Cork. Voluntary child-  
care society involved in many  
activities and projects that  
promote the welfare of  
children and their families, as  
well as being a registered  
adoption society. Contact:  
Ruth Murray, Senior Social  
Worker.

*Telephone: 021-273213*

*Facsimile: 021-270932*

## **N.O.R.C.A.P.**

Anne Kane, Ballinaphort,  
Multyfarnham, County  
Westmeath tracing.

*Telephone: 044-71323*

## **CHILD CARE ADOPTION & FOSTERING UNIT**

St Mary's Hospital, Dublin  
Road, Drogheda, County  
Louth. Contact: Marie Lynch,  
Senior Social Worker-Child  
Placement Team

*Telephone 041-32963*

## **WESTERN HEALTH BOARD CATCHMENT AREA**

Social Work Services in  
Counties Galway, Mayo and  
Roscommon.

*County Galway telephone:*

*Ballinasloe Health Centre*  
*0905-842737/842782*

*Loughrea Health Centre*  
*091-841077*

*Tuam Health Centre*  
*093-24492*

*Galway City*  
*091- 523122/523115*

*CURA: Galway City Aras de Brun*  
*091-562558*

Adoption/tracing: Clann,  
Finance Building, Merlin  
Park Hospital, Galway.  
Contact: Mary T. Gormley,  
Anne McCarthy

*Telephone: 091-751131 Ext. 311*

**County Mayo telephone:**

*County Clinic, Castlebar*  
094-22333

*County Clinic, Bullina*  
096-21511

**County Roscommon telephone:**

*Community Care,  
Roscommon Town*  
0903-27089

*Health Centre, Castlereagh*  
0907-20348

*Health Centre, Boyle*  
079-62868

**FOSTERING RESOURCE GROUP**

Eastern Health Board, Park  
House, North Circular Road  
Dublin 7.

*Telephone: 01-838 7122*

or check with your local  
Health Board about short and  
long-term fostering.

**IRISH FOSTERCARE ASSOCIATION**

60 Grange Wood,  
Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

**NORTHERN IRELAND AREA  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE  
BOARDS**

Provide counselling, and  
arrange adoptions, if  
required. Check telephone  
directory to find address of  
local board.

**ADOPT**

Peskett Centre, 2-2a Windsor  
Road, Belfast, BT9 7FQ.

Meetings held first Tuesday,  
every month at 8pm sharp, in  
Queen's Staff Common Room  
1st Floor. Support service for  
adoptees, birth parents,  
adoptive parents and anyone  
affected by adoption.  
Recordscan tracing service

*Telephone: 0801-232-382353*

**CHURCH OF IRELAND BOARD FOR  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (N.I.)**

Incorporating The C of I  
Social and Family Welfare  
Association (NI) and Adoption  
Society, Church of Ireland  
House, 12 Talbot Street,  
Belfast, BT1 2QH. In addition  
to their adoption service, the  
society provides a fertility  
counselling service linked to  
The Fertility Clinic at The  
Royal Maternity Hospital,  
Belfast.

*Telephone: 0801-232-233885*

**CATHOLIC FAMILY CARE**

Pastoral Centre, 164 Bishop  
Street, Derry.

*Telephone: 0801-504-368592*

**CATHOLIC FAMILY CARE**

511 Ormeau Road, Belfast 7

*Telephone: 0801-232-691133*

**ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND  
WALES:**

**BRITISH AGENCY FOR ADOPTION  
AND FOSTERING**

**Head Office: Skyline House,  
200 Union Street, London SE1  
0LY, England. BAAF aims to  
ensure public and professional  
understanding of the issues in  
adoption and fostering in  
order to promote the best  
interests of children separated  
from their birth families.  
Publications, information,  
advice, training and a family  
finding service are all  
available. Contact: Geoff  
Gurney, Deputy Director,  
Shaila Shah, Publications  
Manager.**

*Telephone: 0044-171-593 2000*

**BIRTHLINK (SCOTLAND)**

**Family Care  
21 Castle Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 3DN**

*Telephone 0044-131-225 6441*

# ~~connections~~ **Other Useful Addresses** ~~ports~~

#### **CHILD BENEFIT SECTION**

Social Welfare Services Office,  
Oliver Plunkett Road,  
Letterkenny, County Donegal.

*Telephone: 01-874 8444 &  
074-25566 (Dublin number is put  
through to Donegal, as a local  
call)*

#### **PARENTLINE**

Carmichael House, North  
Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.  
Counselling organisation for  
parents under stress.

*Telephone: 01-873 3500  
Facsimile: 01-873 5735*

#### **IRISH PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION**

19 Inns Court, Winetavern  
Street, Dublin 8

*Telephone: 01-671 9245*

#### **NATIONAL CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTRE**

Barnardo's, Christchurch  
Square, Dublin 8.

*Telephone: 01-454 9699*

Open 9.30 - 1.00pm  
Free Publication: 'Choosing  
the Best for your Child', a  
parent's guide - nurseries,  
childminders, crèches.  
Booklists on: Adoption &  
Fostering, Bereavement,  
Disability, Family Life, First  
Experiences, Health, Keep  
Safe, etc.

#### **REGISTRAR GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard  
Street East, Dublin 2

*Telephone: 01-671 1000  
(for all certificates)*

#### **THE PASSPORT OFFICE**

Dept of Foreign Affairs,  
Setanta Centre, Molesworth  
Street, Dublin 2. Long form of  
Birth Certificate required for  
all passports. Where the  
Adoption Order has not yet  
been granted, consent is  
usually necessary from birth  
mother, if single, and from  
both parents, if they are  
married. The placing agency  
will normally provide this.  
Where there is a particular  
difficulty, each case is judged  
on its merits.

*General Information, day and  
night telephone: 01-679 7600*

*Business calls 9.30am-5.15pm  
Monday-Friday telephone:  
01-671 1633*

Adoption matters contact:  
Patrick Scullion

#### **DEPT OF EQUALITY & LAW REFORM**

Dun Aimbhirgin, 43-49 Mespil  
Road, Dublin 4.

*Telephone: 01-667 0344*

**INFORMATION SECTION, DEPT OF  
SOCIAL WELFARE**

Aras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store  
Street, Dublin 1

*Telephone: 01-874 8444*

**NATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE  
BOARD**

71 Lower Leeson Street,  
Dublin 2.

The Board is the central  
registering body for Citizens  
Information Centres. It  
provides support, training  
and an information service for  
CIC volunteers and other  
organisations involved in  
disseminating information to  
the public.

*Telephone: 01-661 6422*

*Facsimile: 01-676 4908*

**REVENUE COMMISSIONERS**

Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.  
Enquiries on entitlements.

*Telephone: 01-679 2777*

**THE LEGAL AID BOARD**

St. Stephen's Green House,  
Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

*Telephone: 01-661 5811*

**CHERISH**

(association of one parent  
families), 2 Lower Pembroke  
Street, Dublin 2.

*Telephone: 01-668 2744*

**HARMONY**

41 Morehampton Road,  
Donnybrook, Dublin 4  
Contact: Tony Ffrench

*Telephone: 01-451 0605*

Inter-racial friendship and  
support group, meetings and  
newsletters.

**NORCAP**

(National Organisation for the  
Counselling of Adoptees and  
their Parents) has maintained  
a register since 1982.

3 New High Street,  
Headington, Oxford OX3 7AJ

*Telephone: 0044-1865-750554*

**PARENT TO PARENT  
INFORMATION ON ADOPTION  
SERVICES (PPIAS)**

Lower Boddington, Daventry,  
Northamptonshire, NN11  
6YB, England. Information  
and Support in all areas of  
adoption, including  
Attachment Disorder Parents  
Network. Contact: Philly  
Morrall, National Co-  
ordinator

*Telephone: 0044-1327-260295*

# info **Some Interesting Statistics** bers



**I**t is worthwhile having a look at some of the figures for adoption, and these listed below are from the 1993 Adoption Board Report.

**529**

Applications for adoption orders in 1993.

**267**

Applications for children within their natural family  
(50.5% of applications received)

**229**

Applications for children placed by the registered adoption  
societies and health boards.

**500**

Adoption orders made of which family adoptions  
accounted for 222 orders, of which

**205**

Orders were made in favour of the child's birth mother  
and her husband.\*

**8**

Orders were made under the terms of the Adoption Act, 1988  
following the granting of authorised orders under Section 3 of  
that Act by the High Court.

**10**

Orders were made for children with special needs.

Since the Adoption Act, 1952 came into operation on 1st January 1953, until 31st December 1993, there were a total of **38,857** adoption orders.

**\*In 1993 41% of the adoption orders made by the Board related to applications where the birth mother was adopting with her husband. \*\***

**As stated in the Adoption Board Report: Birth mothers continue to express their dissatisfaction at the inadequacy in the existing law which makes no specific provision for such adoptions and does not reflect the reality of their continued parental relationship. The Board considers it desirable that the original parental relationship be recognised. This cannot be done under the provisions of the Adoption Act 1952 to 1991 and the Board would welcome a change in the law.**

***\*\*See booklist: stepchildren and adoption published by BAAF, advantages and disadvantages of step-parent adoption.***

**ADOPTION ACT, 1991:** Since the introduction of the Act on 30th May, 1991 to 31st December, 1993, a total of 422 foreign adoptions have been recognised and entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions.

## **SUMMARY OF IRISH LEGISLATION RELEVANT TO ADOPTION**

### **CHILDREN ACT, 1908 (Child Care)**

**ADOPTION ACT, 1952.** Although adoption had been practised in Ireland since time immemorial, this was the first Adoption Act. The Adoption Board was set up under this Act, and empowered to make adoption orders. This Act provided for the termination of a child's legal relationship with his/her natural mother or other guardian and the creation of a new legal parent/child relationship with his/her adoptive parents. It provided for the adoption of children who were orphans or illegitimate and defined those eligible to adopt as a married couple living together; a widow; the mother, natural father and certain relatives of the child.

**ADOPTION ACT, 1964** widened the scope of a number of the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1952. It provided for the adoption of a legitimated child and varied the age limits for eligible children and for prospective adopters; exempted placements for adoption from health authority supervision; extended the Board's powers in relation to interim orders and also provided for relaxations in the citizenship and residency qualifications.

### **GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS ACT, 1964 (Child Care)**

**ADOPTION ACT, 1974.** Under Section 3 of this Act the High Court is empowered, on the application by a person seeking an adoption order, to authorise the Adoption Board to dispense with the consent of the mother where it is satisfied that it is in the best interests of the child to do so. This Act emphasised that in all matters concerning the making of an adoption order, the Board, or a court, should regard the welfare of the child as the first and paramount consideration. It also made a number of other amendments including the extension in some instances of the right to adopt to widowers, and allowed adoption orders to be made in cases where the child, the adoptive parents and the person placing the child were of different religions, provided that the person placing the child gave consent.

**ADOPTION ACT, 1976** provided that a person whose consent to adoption was necessary, had the right to be heard on the application; had to be informed before giving consent of the right to withdraw that consent up to the making of the adoption order, and to be informed of the date on which the order was made. This Act provided for the validation of all adoption orders made prior to its enactment insofar as they might be invalid for the reason that the Adoption Board had not fulfilled its statutory obligation to be satisfied that the mother understood the nature and effect of giving consent to adoption, or her right to withdraw consent up to the making of the order. It also provided that adoption orders should not be declared invalid if such a declaration was not in the best interests of the child concerned.

**SIXTH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION (ADOPTION) ACT, 1979** enabled an amendment to the Constitution to remove doubts about the power of the Adoption Board to make adoption orders. Article 37.2 was added to Bunreacht na hEireann.

*No adoption of a person taking effect or expressed to take effect at any time after the coming into operation of this Constitution under laws enacted by the Oireachtas and being an adoption pursuant to an order made or an authorisation given by any such person or body of persons designated by those laws to exercise such functions and powers was or shall be invalid by reason only of the fact that such person or body of persons was not a judge or a court appointed or established as such under this Constitution.*

**JUSTICE (TRANSFER OF DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION AND MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS) ORDER, 1982**

**STATUS OF CHILDREN ACT, 1987** amended the law relating to legitimacy, guardianship, maintenance and succession, and provided for declarations of parentage and for the use of blood tests in determining parentage. (Child Care)

**ADOPTION (No:2) ACT 1988** extended the categories of children eligible for adoption to include children of marriage and foundlings. Under the terms of this Act, the Board may make an adoption order on the granting of an authorising order by the High Court under Section 3.

**CHILD CARE ACT, 1991** will affect most aspects of child care. Seventeen sections of this Act have been implemented to date. Another forty-four sections will be implemented on the 1st October, 1995 and an additional £10m will be made available for this purpose, bringing the total invested in the childcare services since 1993 to £30m.(Child Care)

**ADOPTION ACT, 1991** provides for the recognition of foreign adoptions and for the making of declarations of eligibility and suitability in respect of couples wishing to adopt abroad. It also extended the categories of persons eligible to adopt to include single and separated persons where in the particular circumstances of the case it is desirable.

**ADOPTIVE LEAVE ACT, 1995** granted the option of adoptive leave to adoptive mothers and sole adopting fathers. (Employment Legislation)

It will be noted that there are now six Adoption Acts in Irish legislation, making the legal position complex and obscure. A new Adoption Act, appropriate to modern circumstances and repealing the existing Acts, is long overdue.

documents **Books and Leaflets** text



## **ADOPTIVE LEAVE ACT**

Explanatory leaflet issued by  
The Department of Equality  
and Law Reform, Dun  
Aimhirgin, 43-49 Mespil  
Road, Dublin 4

*Telephone 01-667 0344 Facsimile  
01-667 03667*

Summary - but see leaflet for  
fuller details: An adopting  
mother or a sole male adopter  
who is in employment is  
entitled to a minimum of 10  
consecutive weeks of adoptive  
leave from work beginning on  
the day of placement of the  
child, and up to 4 weeks  
additional adoptive leave. The  
10-week period of adoptive  
leave will attract a social  
welfare benefit in the majority  
of cases.

**A CEREMONY OF THANKSGIVING  
FOR AN ADOPTED CHILD**  
Veritas Book of Blessings  
(R.C.)\*

*and*

**A SERVICE OF BLESSING UPON  
THE ADOPTION OF A CHILD**  
(Protestant)\*\*

This is a ceremony for either  
church or house, where the  
adopted child is formally  
received into the community  
into which he or she has been  
adopted. If the child has  
already been baptised, he or  
she is given the new names,

and godparents are nominated  
in much the same ways as at a  
christening. This ceremony  
would be performed after the  
adoption order has been  
made, and the age of the child  
is not significant. It can be a  
very unifying experience for  
the family and extended  
family, and as it is entered in  
the parish register, it is  
registering his/her part of that  
community.

*\*First published by Irish  
Institute of Pastoral Liturgy,  
College Street, Carlow 0503  
42942*

*\*\*A copy is usually sent out by  
PACT after the adoption  
order has been made.*

## **AN OUTLINE OF ADOPTION LAW AND PROCEDURE**

Obtained from the Adoption  
Board, Dublin 2

## **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ADOPTION**

M. Jones, Sheldon Press,  
London 1987

## **YOURS BY CHOICE**

J. Rowe, Tavistock Routledge  
Kegan 1992. Earlier editions  
more relevant to Irish  
Adoption.

**ADOPTION: THE INSIDE STORY**

J Austin, Barn Owl Books  
1985

**MOTHERS & THEIR ADOPTED  
CHILDREN, THE BONDING  
PROCESS**

Smith & Sherwen,  
Tiresias Press.

**THICKER THAN WATER?  
ADOPTION: LOYALTIES, PITFALLS  
AND JOYS**

Alice Heim,  
Secker & Warburg

**FAMILY BONDS: ADOPTION  
IN PERU**  
Elizabeth Bartholet,  
Houghton Mifflin USA 1994

**LOVING OTHER PEOPLES  
CHILDREN, GUIDE FOR  
STEP-PARENTS**

D. Fowler, Vermilion,  
London 1992

**MINE, YOURS OR OURS? STUDY  
OF STEP-PARENT ADOPTION**

J. Masson HM Stationery  
Office UK

**ADOPTING THE OLDER CHILD**

Claudia Jewett, Harvard  
Common Press 1978 Mass.,  
USA

**MAKING SENSE OF ADOPTION, A  
PARENTS GUIDE**

Lois Melina, Harper & Rowe  
NY 1986

**RAISING ADOPTED CHILDREN,  
MANUAL FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS**

Lois Melina, Harper & Rowe  
1986

**PARENTING YOUR ADOPTED  
CHILD**

Stephanie Siegel  
Making Life Story Books,  
Ryan & Walker BAAF 1985

**INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION,  
PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES**

M&H Humphrey, Routledge,  
London 1993

**INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION,  
MULTINATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

Alstein & Simon, Praeger  
1991

**THURSDAY'S CHILD, THE  
ROMANIAN ADOPTION STORY**

Adrienne Cullen,  
Kildanore Press, Dublin

**SEVEN OF THE BEST**

Mark & Elaine Murphy, M&E  
Publications, Carrigaline,  
County Cork 1992



**SEARCH: HANDBOOK FOR  
ADOPTED AND BIRTH PARENTS**  
Jane Askin. Oryx Press 1992

**MISSING LINKS**

Vincent J Begley. Claycombe  
Press. USA 1990

**HALF A MILLION WOMEN,  
MOTHERS WHO LOSE THEIR  
CHILDREN BY ADOPTION**

David Howe, Phillida  
Sawbridge. Diana Hinings,  
Penguin 1992  
ISBN 0 14 0154159

**PARTING WITH A CHILD FOR  
ADOPTION, THE MOTHER'S  
PERSPECTIVE**

Patricia Bouchier, Lydia  
Lambert and John Triseliotis.  
BAAF 1991  
ISBN 0 903534 99 1

**NEW PARENTS FOR OLDER  
CHILDREN**

Research study into problems,  
issues and outcomes around  
the adoption of older children  
by new families. Alan  
Rushton, Judy Treseder,  
David Quinton. BAAF 1988  
ISBN 0 903534 79 7

**OPENING NEW DOORS FINDING  
FAMILIES FOR OLDER AND  
DISABLED CHILDREN**  
Kay Donley BAAF 1981

**ADOPTED ADULTS, EVALUATION  
OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
THEIR FAMILIES**  
P. Hodkins. Norcap '87

**LOST & FOUND: THE ADOPTION  
EXPERIENCE**  
Betty Jean Lifton. Dial Press  
N.Y. 1979

**SHARED EXPERIENCES**  
NORCAP 1986

**SEARCHING FOR FAMILY  
CONNECTIONS**  
NORCAP 1988

**EXPLAINING ADOPTION TO YOUR  
ADOPTED CHILD**  
Guide for adoptive parents  
16+years. Prue Chennels  
BAAF ISBN 0903534711

**ANDY'S BIG QUESTION**  
Questions and answers 9-11  
years Carolyn Nystrom. Lion  
Publishing  
ISBN 0745912702

**THE PINBALLS**

Three children in the same foster home must learn to be tolerant of each other. Betsy Byars. Puffin 1980, 9-11 years  
ISBN 0140311211

**STEVE IS ADOPTED**

Explains to 5 year old Steve, who is coloured, why he is a different colour to his adoptive family. 4-7 years  
Nigel Snell. Hamish Hamilton  
ISBN 0241115116

**LOST CHILDREN**

Adopted children searching for their mothers, Polly Toynbee. Hutchinson 1985

**IN SEARCH OF ORIGINS**

Trischiotis. Routledge & Kegan John Paul 1973

**WHY WAS I ADOPTED?**

7-9 years. humorous. Carole Livingston. Angus & Robertson 1978

**STEP FAMILIES TALKING POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

7-9 years. Angela Grunsell, Gloucester Press 1990

**HOW IT FEELS TO BE ADOPTED**

Interviews 9-11 years. 11-16 years Jill Kremintz. Gollancz 1991

**PREPARING FOR REUNION, PERSONAL ACCOUNTS**

The Children's Society 1994  
BAAF

**BYE BYE BABY**

The children the CI's left behind. Bloomsbury, London 1991

**SEARCH & REUNION IN THE ADOPTION TRIANGLE**

Eileen Farrelly Conway.  
Occasional Paper 3. Available for £5 from the Department of Social Studies, Dublin 2

**ADOPTION IN THE 90's IDENTITY AND OPENESS**

(video also) Murray Ryburn. Leanington Press '92

**ADOPTION LAW & PRACTICE**

O'Halloran Kelly.  
Butterworth Dublin Ireland 1992

**FAMILY LAW IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

Alan Shatter  
Wolfhound Press

**THE ADOPTION TRIANGLE**

Tugendah, Bloomsbury 1992

**CHANGING CHILDREN**

Living with a new Generation.  
Paul Andrews S.J., Gill &  
Macmillan 1994.  
ISBN 07171 21380

**NOVELS WITH ADOPTION THEME:****THE BATTLE FOR CHRISTABEL**

Margaret Foster,  
Windus UK 1992

**WHERE ARE THE SNOWS?**

Maggie Gee, Heinemann,  
UK 1992

**WISE CHILDREN**

Angela Carter, Chatto &  
Windus, 1992

**FIND A STRANGER,  
SAY GOODBYE**

Lois Lowry, Granada  
Paperbacks

**AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE**

Beryl Bainbridge, Duckworth  
UK 1992

**THE OTHER MOTHER**

Seth Margolis, Headline,  
London 1993

**BLOOD RELATIVE**

Carolyn Hougan, Headline,  
London 1993

Some of these books may be  
out of print, but may still be  
available through libraries.

Easons, Hodges Figgis, Fred  
Hanna, Veritas, Waterstones,  
Dublin Bookshop and Bray  
Bookshop, Bookstop, all have  
large sections on family  
matters.

British Agencies for Adoption  
and Fostering (BAAF) have a  
huge range of newsletters,  
journals, and booklets - most  
of the latter cost 75p each plus  
stamped addressed envelope,  
and cover such subjects as:  
**Adoption** - some questions  
answered. **If you are  
adopted**. **Stepchildren and  
adoption**. **Single, pregnant**.  
**Intercountry adoption**- this  
costs £1. **Talking about  
origins**. **Foster care** - some  
questions answered. **Child  
from the past**, information  
for parents who placed a child  
for adoption years ago in  
England and Wales. **If your  
child is being adopted** -  
information for birth parents.  
They produce an excellent.

comprehensive catalogue of  
books, periodicals, training  
materials and leaflets on social  
work with children and  
families.

**BAAF, Skyline House,  
200 Union Street,  
London SE1 0LX.**

*Telephone: 0044 171 593 2000*

between 9.30am and 1pm and  
2-5pm, ask for Publications  
Sales, quoting Access/Visa, etc.

**Bookstall Services,  
86 Abbey Street, Derby,  
DE3 3SQ England**

*Telephone: 0044 332 368039*

*Facsimile: 368079*

Stock a wide variety of books  
on adoption and offer a postal  
service and accept cheques,  
Visa, etc.

**W**e would like to emphasise the positive aspects of adoption from the point-of-view of adoptive parents! These children have enriched our lives in every way, bringing with them their multitude of talents and love. It is true to say - as would any loving parent - that we would defend them, and their rights, with our lives!

### **TO AN ADOPTED CHILD**

Not bone of my bone

Not flesh of my flesh

But miraculously my own -

You didn't grow under my heart

- But in it!

ISBN 0-9526750-0-5.

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Designed and Produced by Visual Communications, Dublin.

**Price £5.00**