

Report of An Bord Uchtála

(The Adoption Board)

1999



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BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH:
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR.

Le ceannach díreach ón
OIFIG DHÍOLTA FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS, TEACH SUN ALLIANCE,
SRÁID THEACH LAIGHEAN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2,
nó tríd an bpost ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS, AN RANNÓG POST-TRÁCHTA,
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(Teil: 01-6476834/5/6/7; Fax: 01-4752760)
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DUBLIN:
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from the
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALE OFFICE, SUN ALLIANCE HOUSE,
MOLESWORTH STREET, DUBLIN 2,
or by mail order from
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, POSTAL TRADE SECTION,
4-5 HARCOURT ROAD, DUBLIN 2,
(Tel: 01-6476834/5/6/7; Fax: 01-4752760)
or through any bookseller.

Price £6.00

€7.62

ISBN 0-7076-6507-8

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Membership of Adoption Board

★ JUDGE JAMES J. O'SULLIVAN, Justice of the District Court, Chairman

★ JUDGE MARY FAHY, Justice of the District Court, Chairman

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★★ DR MICHAEL MULCAHY

★★ DR DEIRDRE MCINTYRE, M.A., Ph.D

SHARON O'DRISCOLL

Registrar: DAVID WOLFE

★ Judge Fahy resigned as Chairman of the Board on 23rd September, 1999 to take up a new appointment and Judge O'Sullivan was appointed as Chairman on 27th October, 1999.

★★ Dr Deirdre McIntyre resigned from the Board on 14th September, 1998 and Dr Michael Mulcahy was appointed to the Board on 27th October, 1999.

The members of the Board would like to record their sincere appreciation to Judge Fahy and Dr McIntyre for their commitment to the Adoption Board and the development of the Irish adoption system.

The Board would also like to express its appreciation to its staff for their diligent work throughout the year and to those staff who contributed to the preparation of this Report.

Report of An Bord Uchtála (The Adoption Board) for 1999

To: Ms. Mary Hanafin, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children.

I. Introduction

- 1.1 The Board has the honour to present its forty-seventh Report for the year ended 31st December, 1999.
- 1.2 During 1999 the Board made 317 Irish adoption orders; 242 declarations of eligibility and suitability to adopt outside the State under the provisions of Section 5(1)(iii)(II) of the Adoption Act, 1991; 283 entries in the Register of Foreign Adoptions; and it dealt with 1,010 search and reunion enquiries.
- 1.3 The Board received a total of 367 adoption applications for the adoption of children resident in the State during 1998, 252 of which were in respect of family adoptions. Applications for the adoption of Irish children placed by the Health Boards and the Registered Adoption Societies remained static during 1999. The Board received a total of 93 such adoption applications in 1998 compared to 94 applications in 1999. Family adoption applications increased slightly during 1999 with 252 adoption applications being received compared to 241 in 1998. See Table 1.
- 1.4 The Board made 317 Irish adoption orders in 1999 compared to 400 in 1998. One hundred and ninety seven adoption orders were made in respect of family adoptions, 187 of which were made in favour of the child's mother and her husband. Ninety adoption orders were made in respect of children placed for adoption by the Health Boards and the Registered Adoption Societies compared to 99 such adoption orders in 1998. Eight Irish adoption orders were made in respect of Irish children placed privately by birth mothers for adoption. Private adoption placements were prohibited with the enactment of the Adoption Act, 1998. The Board also made twenty two Irish adoption orders for children from overseas, seventeen in respect of children from Guatemala, two in respect of children from India, two in respect of children from Paraguay and one in respect of a child from Lebanon. The children from Guatemala, Paraguay and Lebanon were the subject of "simple" adoptions in these countries and as "simple" adoptions are not recognisable under Irish law the adoptive parents had to apply, with the consent of the birth parents, for Irish adoption orders in respect of the children. In the case of the children from India the prospective adoptive parents were granted guardianship orders in respect of the children by the Indian High Court for the specific purpose of adopting the children under Irish law. The adoptive parents in all these cases were deemed eligible and suitable to adopt outside the State by the Board in advance of arranging the adoptions. See Tables 2 & 22.2.

- 1.5 The Board made eleven adoption orders in 1999 under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988 and three adoption orders in respect of children with special needs. Details of applications processed under the provisions of the Adoption Act, 1988 set out in page 17 of the Report.
- 1.6 A total of 41,315 adoption orders have been made in respect of children placed for adoption in the State since the introduction of adoption legislation in Ireland on 1st January, 1953. See Table 17.
- 1.7 The Board met on forty-one occasions during 1999. Thirty-nine meetings were held in Dublin and two meetings were held in Galway.

2. Domestic Adoption

2.1 Trends in Domestic Adoption

The Board made 317 adoption orders in 1999 compared to 400 adoption orders in 1998, a decrease of approximately 21% on the 1998 figure. This decrease can be accounted for by the carry-over of adoption applications from year to year and the increasing time it is taking to process family adoption applications because of the complexities involved in such applications.

2.2 Family Adoptions

Family adoption applications increased slightly during 1999 to 252 adoption applications compared to 241 adoption applications in 1998. A number of birth mothers in family adoption applications complained to the Board that they did not think that it was right that they should have to adopt their own child. In such cases the birth mother's husband was not the father of the child and they both applied jointly to adopt the child into their marriage. Under current legislation the child's mother has to give up her sole legal rights in respect of the child when adopting the child and take on joint legal rights and responsibilities in respect of the child. Some birth mothers considered that they had no alternative but to give up their sole legal rights to their child in order that they and their husband could take on joint legal rights and responsibilities in respect of the child. In this way the child gains inheritance rights within the new family unit and has the same rights as any child born within that marriage. The Board considers that some alternative legislative arrangement should be put in place whereby a birth mother could retain her legal relationship to her child as the child's birth mother while at the same time allowing her husband to acquire parental responsibility over the child.

2.3 Birth Fathers

The trend for birth fathers to request a hearing before the Board in cases where their child was the subject of an adoption application by the child's birth mother and her husband continued. In some cases birth fathers were totally opposed to the adoption of their child and following the hearing they took proceedings in the Courts for guardianship and access to the child. In other cases birth fathers objected to the adoption of their child but then decided not to exercise their potential legal rights in respect of the child. In such cases the Board had to decide if it was in the interests and welfare of the child to make an adoption order in the particular case in the knowledge that by so doing it would sever all legal ties between the birth father and the child. In a number of cases birth fathers informed the Board that they did not wish to be heard on the application or in other cases they informed the Board at the hearing that they had no difficulty with the child being adopted.

2.4 Some birth fathers in family adoption cases have objected to the making of an adoption order in respect of their child because they are aware that their legal right to continuing access to their child would cease if an adoption order was made. Birth fathers have

informed the Board in some cases that they would have no objection in principle to an adoption order being made in favour of the child's mother and her husband subject to their receiving a legal guarantee that they could continue to have access to the child after the order was made. The Board considers that legislation should be enacted to enable the Board to attach conditions to the making of an adoption order which would allow a birth father to have ongoing access to his child following the making of the order.

2.5 Birth Registrations

In the vast majority of adoption applications which the Board processes the child's birth father is not registered on the child's birth certificate. In some cases birth mothers have given the name of the child's birth father to the Board and that person, when notified of the adoption application, has subsequently denied paternity even though the birth mother is adamant that the person she identified is the child's father. The only way to resolve such disputes is through DNA testing and both parties have to agree to being tested. In some cases one or other of the parties has refused to be tested. The Board considers that it is vitally important that as many birth fathers as possible are encouraged to have their name entered in the Register of Births in the interests and welfare of the child. In this regard the Board suggests that consideration be given to enacting legislation to make it mandatory for a birth father's name to be recorded in the Register of Births where his identity is known.

3. Intercountry Adoption

3.1 Trends in Intercountry Adoption

The Board made a total of 242 declarations of eligibility and suitability to adopt abroad in 1999 compared to 206 declarations in 1998, an increase of approximately 17% on the 1998 figure. The number of entries made in the Register of Foreign Adoptions increased from 259 entries in 1998 to 283 entries in 1999. The increase in the number of applicant(s) applying for an assessment for inter-country adoption can be attributed to the decline in the number of children being placed for domestic adoption and to a greater awareness of intercountry adoption. The continued increase in the number of applicant(s) applying for assessment led to longer waiting times for assessment in the agencies and increased demands on agency Social Workers and Adoption Board staff in processing these applications.

3.2 Towards a Standardised Framework for Intercountry Adoption Assessment Procedures

The Board welcomed the publication of the Report "Towards a Standardised Framework for Inter-Country Adoption Assessment Procedures" by the Minister in July, 1999. The Report had been commissioned by the Minister in November, 1998 following complaints from applicant(s) at the delays in being assessed for intercountry adoption and at the manner in which assessments were being carried out by some Social Workers. The Report traced the development of the intercountry adoption assessment process since the enactment of the Adoption Act, 1991 and it recommended the introduction of a Standardised Framework for assessment for intercountry adoption. The Report acknowledged the professionalism of Social Workers involved in intercountry adoption assessment but it also noted the deficiencies in the assessment process and the lack of standardisation throughout the country. The Report recommended a complete overhaul of the assessment process and it made a number of recommendations for improving the service to applicant(s). A key component to the re-organisation of the assessment process was the introduction of a Standardised Framework which was both open and transparent and based on good social work practice. The Report identified the key issues involved in assessment for intercountry adoption and the social work principles underpinning the assessment process. The Standardised Framework recommended an assessment process based on the adult education model with the applicant(s) participating fully in the assessment process and learning about the issues involved in intercountry adoption to enable them to make a fully informed decision to adopt abroad.

3.3 Following on from the Publication of the Report which was approved by the Government extra resources were allocated to the intercountry adoption service. Resources allocated to the agencies through the Department of Health and Children were targeted at the recruitment of additional Social Workers in the agencies and at improvements to the infra-structure of the intercountry adoption service. The extra resources allocated to the agencies were targeted at agencies which had the longest waiting lists. While it was accepted that it would take time for the extra resources to

make a significant improvement in the waiting times for assessment for intercountry adoption, the Board noted that the waiting time in the agencies with the longest waiting list had started to improve by the end on 1999.

- 3.4 Representatives of the Board held discussions with officials of the Central Adoption Authorities of Thailand and Belarus during 1999 as a result of which agreements were concluded concerning the transmission of adoption applicants from the Adoption Board directly to the Thai and Belarus Central Adoption Authorities. The Board transmits adoption applications directly to Thailand, Belarus, China and the Phillipines and this has led to a huge increase in work for Board staff involved in intercountry adoption. The Board forwards post-placement reports to the Central Authorities of these countries in respect of children who were adopted in these countries and it also forwards post-placement reports to the Russian Embassy for transmission to the Russian Authorities in respect of children adopted in Russia. Countries are increasingly demanding that post-placement reports be prepared on children adopted from their countries and this has led to an increased work load for Social Workers in the agencies and for Board staff.

3.5 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, 1993

The Board met with representatives of the Department of Health and Children during 1999 to discuss the legislation being prepared by the Department to ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, 1993. The Department also met with all those groups with an interest in intercountry adoption as part of the consultation process. It was generally accepted that the Board as the statutory authority with responsibility for adoption matters in the State should take on the role as Central Authority under the new legislation. The Convention sets out a framework for the regulation of intercountry adoption to protect the interests and welfare of children adopted through intercountry adoption, to ensure that the highest standards are maintained and to promote the establishment of co-operation agreements between sending and receiving countries in relation to inter-country adoption. The Board welcomed the proposed ratification of the Convention as it would provide further safeguards for children adopted from abroad and ensure that intercountry adoption was only carried out when it was in the best interests of the child.

4. Search and Reunion Enquiries

4.1 Trends in Search and Reunion Enquiries

The Board received 1,010 search and reunion enquiries in 1999 compared to 1,049 such enquiries in 1998. Media reports in the summer of 1999 which indicated that adoptees were legally entitled to the release of their original birth certificate led to a large increase in the number of adoptees of writing to the Board seeking the release of a copy of their original birth certificate. The number of such requests increased from 42 in 1998 to 139 in 1999, an increase of approximately 230% on the 1998 figure. As a result the Board had to deal with a large number of requests for the release of original birth certificates in a short period of time and explain to these adoptees the factual position that the Board had to ascertain the views of their birth mother on the release of identifying information before it could make a decision on their application. This led to adoptees feeling very frustrated at the search and reunion system and venting their frustration at staff in the adoption agencies and in the Board and it highlighted the need for legislation in this area.

4.2 Legislation on Search and Reunion

The Board met with representatives of the Department of Health and Children during 1999 to discuss the proposed legislation on search and reunion. The Department also met with all the groups involved in this area as part of the consultative process. The Board highlighted to the Department the need to introduce legislation to regulate search and reunion to meet the needs of all those who had been effected by the adoption experience.

4.3

The Board is guided in how it deals with search and reunion enquiries by recent High Court and Supreme Court decisions in this area. The experience of the Board is that adoptees find it very difficult to understand why they are denied information on their birth origins and why it sometimes takes so long for their enquiry to be dealt with either by the Board or by the adoption agency which was involved in their placement. Professional expertise in search and reunion is continually being developed by social work staff working for the Board and for adoption agencies. During 1999 the Board released 45 copies of original birth certificates to adoptees and only in two cases did it refuse to release a copy of an original birth certificate to an adoptee. Twenty seven reunions were arranged by the Board's Social Work Team during 1999. In a further 20 cases either the birth mother or the adoptee were not open to contact.

4.4 Adoption Records

Records in relation to adoption applications are in most cases held by the Board or by the adoption agencies. Adoption records held by adoption agencies which de-register with the Board are taken over by the Health Board where the agency was based. In the past a number of adoptions were arranged by couples through nursing homes, religious orders, clergy, doctors, hospitals and privately. Records relating to these adoptions are in some cases still held by individuals or by the organisations which arranged the adoptions. The Board and the adoption agencies have found it extremely difficult to access most of these records when dealing with search and reunion enquiries. The Board considers that all adoption records held privately should be surrendered to the Adoption Board for safe keeping and that legislation be enacted in this regard.

5. Summary of Recommendations

- 5.1 The Board recommends that as an alternative to adoption that legislation be enacted to enable a person who is not the father of a child to acquire parental responsibility in respect of the child in a case where he marries the child's birth mother.
- 5.2 The Board recommends that legislation be enacted to allow the Board to attach conditions to the making of an adoption order which would allow a birth father to have ongoing access to his child following the making of an adoption order in favour of the child's birth mother and her husband.
- 5.3 The Board recommends that legislation be enacted to make it mandatory for a birth father's name to be recorded in the Register of Births where his identity is known.
- 5.4 The Board recommends that legislation be enacted to ensure that all adoption records held privately be surrendered to the Adoption Board for safekeeping.

6. Statistical Summary of Activity During 1999

6.1	Applications for adoption orders received by the Board:	367
6.2	Adoption orders made:	317
6.3	Interim adoption orders made:	0
6.4	Adoption orders made in respect of boys:	163
6.5	Adoption orders made in respect of girls:	154
6.6	Adoption orders made in respect of children born within marriage:	1
6.7	Adoption orders made in respect of extra-marital children:	9
6.8	Adoption orders made in respect of legitimated children in accordance with the Adoption Act, 1964:	0
6.9	Adoption orders made in respect of orphans:	4
6.10	Adoption orders made in favour of widows:	0
6.11	Adoption orders made in favour of widowers:	0
6.12	Adoption orders made in favour of couples where one or both partners had a previous marriage dissolved:	4
6.13	Adoption orders made in favour of an unmarried person not being a relative of the child, or a widow or widower:	2
6.14	Adoption orders made in favour of a separated spouse:	0
6.15	Adoption orders made in favour of a married person pursuant to Section 10(2) & (4) of the Adoption Act, 1991 with the consent of his/her spouse:	1
6.16	Adoption orders made in favour of a married person pursuant to Section 10(2) & (4) without the consent of his/her spouse:	0
6.17	Adoption orders made in cases where the Board dispensed with the consent of the birth mother pursuant to an order of the High Court under Section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1974:	1
6.18	Adoption orders made pursuant to an order of the High Court under Section 3(1) of the Adoption Act, 1988:	11

6.19	Adoption orders made in cases where the Board dispensed with the consent of a birth parent or guardian in accordance with Section 14(2) of the Adoption Act, 1952:	2
6.20	Adoption orders refused:	3
6.21	Declarations made by the Board under Section 2(1) of the Adoption Act, 1988:	13
6.22	Cases in which the Board adjourned a decision on the application:	10
6.23	Applications for adoption orders which were withdrawn:	13
6.24	Applications for adoption orders which were not proceeded with:	20♦
6.25	Children reclaimed by the birth mother:	2
6.26	Children removed from the applicants care by the placing agency:	0
6.27	Children returned to the placing agency or the birth mother by the applicants:	0
6.28	Children who died prior to the making of an adoption order:	0

Notes:-

- ♦ Applications 'not proceeded with' refer to those deemed withdrawn by the Board for various reasons, including failure by the applicants to provide the necessary proofs in support of their application.
- ♦ The difference between the number of applications received and the number of adoption orders made and applications otherwise disposed of is explained by the carry-over of cases from previous years.
- ♦ Nil returns have been shown for some activity areas in order that statistical comparisons can be made from year to year.

7. Search and Reunion Enquiries Received During 1999

7.1	Written enquiries from adoptees for contact with:-	
	(a) their birth mother	137
	(b) their birth father	10
	(c) their sibling(s)	<u>24</u>
		171
7.2	Written enquiries from adoptees for:-	
	(a) the name of the adoption agency which arranged their adoption	198
	(b) for access to information from the Board's file	38
	(c) for the release of a copy of their original birth certificate	<u>139</u>
		375
7.3	Written enquiries from birth families:-	
	(a) birth mothers	90
	(b) birth fathers	12
	(c) relations	<u>22</u>
		124
7.4	Written enquiries from agencies on behalf of:-	
	(a) adoptees	129
	(b) birth mothers	60
	(c) birth fathers	7
	(d) relatives	<u>17</u>
		213
7.5	Written enquiries received from:-	
	(a) adoptive parents	17
	(b) Solicitors, Citizens Advice, etc.	8
	(c) where no adoption application received	<u>102</u>
		127
7.6	Total number of written search and reunion enquiries received during 1999	1,010

7.7 Summary of search and reunion activity during 1999:-

(a)	number of referrals made to placement agencies.	182
(b)	number of searches undertaken.	77
(c)	number of searches discontinued.	14
(d)	number of cases where there was agreement to a reunion.	27
(e)	number of cases where a request for a reunion was refused.	20
(f)	number of cases where post-reunion counselling was on-going.	10
(g)	Number of cases where the adoptee and the birth mother were counselled by the Board's Social Work Team.	83
(h)	number of cases where a copy of the child's original birth certificate was released to the adoptee.	45
(i)	number of cases where the release of a copy of the adopted child's original birth certificate was refused by the Board.	2
(j)	number of cases where the tracer was given full access to and a copy of the Board's file.	4
(k)	number of enquiries referred to other agencies for counselling.	20
(l)	number of cases where reports furnished to agencies by Board staff.	185
(m)	number of letters written in connection with search and reunion enquiries.	774
(n)	number of search and reunion enquiries carried forward.	166

8. Adoption Act, 1988

- 8.1 The Adoption Act, 1988 extended the categories of children who could be legally adopted in the State. The Act provides for the adoption of children, in certain exceptional circumstances, whose parents have failed in their constitutional duty towards them and where there is a loss or abandonment of parental rights under the Constitution. Children of marriage, abandoned children, children whose eligibility for adoption cannot be established and children in long-term foster care where there has been no placement of the child for adoption at the time of reception into care of the child may be adopted under the '88 Act. In such cases the Board has to be authorised by the High Court to make an adoption order in each individual case.
- 8.2 During 1999 the Board made eleven adoption orders pursuant to an order of the High Court under the provisions of the '88 Act in respect of four children of marriage, four non-marital children, two extra-marital children and one abandoned child. The Board decided that seven adoption applications received during 1999 would have to be processed under the provisions of the '88 Act. By the end of 1999 the Board had before it thirty-eight adoption applications which were being processed under the provisions of the '88 Act and in twenty four cases the applications were either the subject of High Court proceedings or proceedings were in the process of being drafted.
- 8.3 In 1999 the Board made thirteen declarations under the '88 Act and adjourned these applications pending the decision of the High Court in each case. Four of the applications were in respect of children of marriage, eight applications were in respect of non-marital children and one application was in respect of a legitimated child.
- 8.4 The Board is obliged under the terms of the '88 Act to hear the applicants, the child where appropriate, its own Welfare Officer and representatives of the Health Board in whose functional area the applicants reside. The Board contacts the birth parents, where possible, in each case which is being processed under the provisions of the '88 Act and offers them a hearing on the application. During 1999 the Board heard five birth mothers, one birth father and the applicants in all cases. The Board also heard the Eastern Health Board on eight applications, the Western Health Board on three applications, the Southern Health Board on three applications and the Mid-Western Health Board on one application. Two of these applications were subsequently processed under the terms of the Adoption Act, 1952.

9. Adoption Act, 1991

9.1	The following statistics relate to entries made in the Register of Foreign Adoptions during 1999.	
9.2	Intercountry adoptions recognised and entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions during 1999 in respect of adoptions effected by persons who were domiciled, habitually resident or ordinarily resident outside the State under Sections 2, 3 & 4 of the Adoption Act, 1991:-	
(a)	entries made under Section 2 of the Adoption Act, 1991	26
(b)	entries made under Section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1991	0
(c)	entries made under Section 4 of the Adoption Act, 1991	<u>76</u>
		102
9.3	Intercountry adoptions recognised and entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions during 1999 in respect of adoptions effected prior to 1st July, 1992 by persons ordinarily resident in the State under Section 5(I)(iii)(I) of the Adoption Act, 1991 as amended by the Adoption Act, 1998.	5
9.4	Intercountry adoptions recognised and entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions in respect of adoptions effected on or after 1st July, 1992 by persons ordinarily resident in the State who had declarations made in their favour under Section 5(I)(iii)(II) of the Adoption Act, 1991.	176
9.5	Total number of inter-country adoptions recognised and entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions.	283
9.6	Applications for recognition and entry in the Register of Foreign Adoptions which were refused.	2
9.7	Applications for declarations of eligibility and suitability to adopt outside the State under Section 5(I)(iii)(II) of the Adoption Act, 1991.	240
9.8	Declarations of eligibility and suitability to adopt outside the State made by the Board under Section 5(I)(iii)(II) of the Adoption Act, 1991.	242
9.9	Extensions to declarations of eligibility and suitability to adopt outside the State which were granted by the Board.	51
9.10	Applications for declarations of eligibility and suitability to adopt outside the State which were refused by the Board.	1

Table 1
APPLICATIONS FOR IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS, 1999

<i>NON-FAMILY APPLICATIONS</i>		
Applications received in respect of children placed by:		
Registered Adoption Societies	56	15.26%
Health boards	38	10.35%
Birth mother (within the state)*	3	0.82%
Persons (including the birth mother) or authorities outside the state	18	4.90%
Total non-family applications	115	31.34%
*Private adoption placements within the State were prohibited under the terms of the Adoption Act, 1998. The applications referred to here were all received prior to the Act becoming law.		
<i>FAMILY APPLICATIONS</i>		
Applications received from		
Birth mother and her husband	243	66.21%
Birth mother alone	1	0.27%
Birth father alone	—	0.00%
Birth father and his wife	—	0.00%
Grandparents	5	1.36%
Other relatives	3	0.82%
Total Family Applications	252	68.66%
TOTAL	367	100.0%
Applications to be processed under Adoption Act, 1988*	7	1.91%
*The Adoption Act, 1988 applications are included in the overall total above in their various categorisations. This figure refers only to 1998 applications definitely proceeding under this Act at the end of the year. Others will ultimately proceed under this Act when full information on them comes to hand.		

Chart 1
APPLICATIONS FOR IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS, 1999

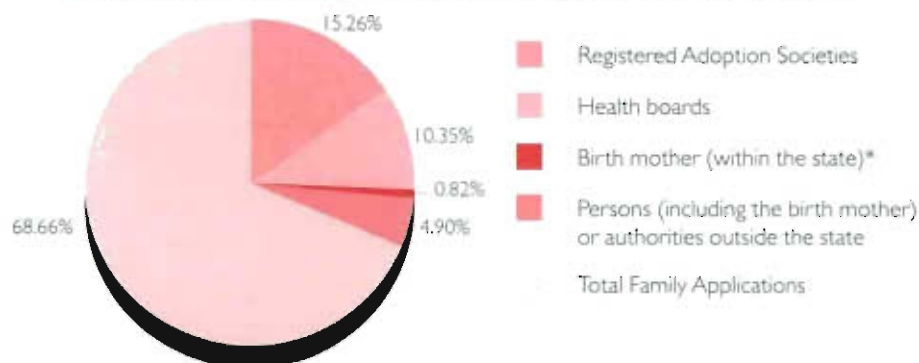


Table 2
IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS MADE, 1999

Orders made in respect of boys	163	51.42%
Orders made in respect of girls	154	48.58%
Total	317	100.00%
NON-FAMILY ADOPTIONS		
Orders made in respect of children placed by:		
Registered adoption societies	53	16.72%
Health boards	37	11.67%
Irish Private Placements	8	2.52%
Children placed by persons or authorities outside the State	22	6.94%
Total non-family adoptions	120	37.85%
FAMILY ADOPTIONS		
Birth mother and her husband	187	58.99%
Birth mother alone	0	0.00%
Birth father and his wife	1	0.32%
Birth father alone	0	0.00%
Grandparents	4	1.26%
Other relatives	5	1.58%
Total family adoptions	197	62.15%
TOTAL	317	100.00%

Chart 2
IRISH ADOPTION ORDERS MADE, 1999

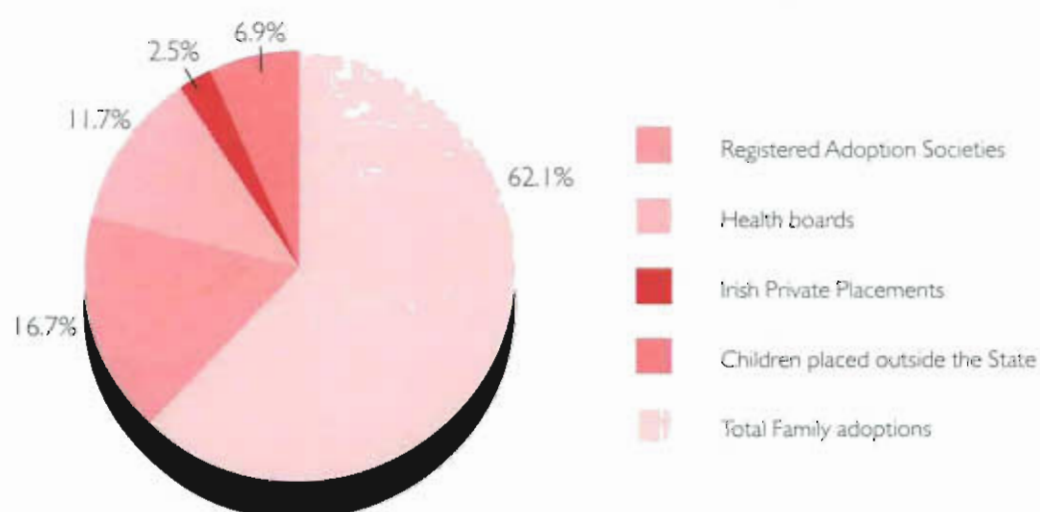


Table 3**ORDERS MADE IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTS OF EACH HEALTH BOARD AREA**

<i>Health Board</i>	<i>Family Adoptions</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Adoptions Non-Family</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Census 1996 % of total population</i>
Eastern	69	21.77%	40	12.62%	109	34.38%	35%
Midland	14	4.42%	2	0.63%	16	5.05%	6%
Mid-Western	21	6.62%	18	5.68%	39	12.30%	9%
North-Eastern	28	8.83%	12	3.79%	40	12.62%	8%
North-Western	5	1.58%	5	1.58%	10	3.15%	6%
South-Eastern	20	6.31%	7	2.21%	27	8.52%	11%
Southern	25	7.89%	22	6.94%	47	14.83%	15%
Western	15	4.73%	14	4.42%	29	9.15%	10%
TOTAL	197	62.15%	120	37.85%	317	100.00%	100%

Table 4
ORDERS MADE 1999 IN RESPECT OF PLACEMENTS
BY EACH ADOPTION SOCIETY AND HEALTH BOARD

<i>Society</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Cúnamh	18	24
PACT	1	4
RGAS	3	0
St. Louises	8	3
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	6	4
St. Anne's Adoption Society	2	4
CLANN	6	11
Limerick Catholic Adoption Society	13	0
St. Attracta's Adoption Society	7	0
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	1	1
St. Mura's Adoption Society	3	2
Total	68	53
<i>Health Board</i>		
Eastern	8	5
Midland	2	3
Mid-Western	0	12
North-Eastern	4	5
North-Western	0	1
South-Eastern	6	4
Southern	11	7
Western	0	0
TOTAL	31	37

Table 5
SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP OF ADOPTERS

	Family Adoptions		Non-Family Adoptions		Total
		%		%	
Professional workers	12	6.09%	11	9.17%	23
Managerial and technical	46	23.35%	40	33.33%	86
Non-manual	23	11.68%	26	21.67%	49
Skilled manual	73	37.06%	25	20.83%	98
Semi-skilled	26	13.20%	12	10.00%	38
Unskilled	16	8.12%	6	5.00%	22
All others gainfully employed	1	0.51%	0	0.00%	1
TOTAL	197	100.00%	120	100.00%	317

Table 6
AGE OF CHILD AT DATE OF ADOPTION ORDER

	Family Adoptions		Non-Family Adoptions		Total
		%		%	
Under 1 year	0	0.00%	27	22.50%	27
Between 1 and 2 years	1	0.51%	54	45.00%	55
Between 2 and 3 years	1	0.51%	9	7.50%	10
Between 3 and 4 years	6	3.05%	5	4.17%	11
Between 4 and 5 years	20	10.15%	2	1.67%	22
Between 5 and 10 years	93	47.21%	12	10.00%	105
Between 10 and 15 years	63	31.98%	3	2.50%	66
Between 15 and 18 years	12	6.09%	8	6.67%	20
Between 18 and 21 years	1	0.51%	0	0.00%	1
TOTAL	197	100.00%	120	100.00%	317

Chart 3**AGE OF CHILD AT DATE OF ADOPTION ORDER – FAMILY CASES****Chart 4****AGE OF CHILD AT DATE OF ADOPTION ORDER – NON-FAMILY CASES****Table 7****STRUCTURE OF ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**

	Family Adoptions		Non-Family Adoptions		Total
	1999	%	1999	%	
No other children	68	34.52%	58	48.33%	126
Natural children only	120	60.91%	16	13.33%	136
Adopted children only	4	2.03%	41	34.17%	45
Natural and Adopted children	5	2.54%	5	4.17%	10
TOTAL	197	100.00%	120	100.00%	317

Table 8
AGE OF CHILD AT PLACEMENT FOR ADOPTION

	Less than 2 mths	2 – 6 months	6 – 9 months	9 – 12 months	12 – 18 months	18 – 24 months	2 – 5 years	Over 5 years	TOTAL
Cúnamh	2	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	24
PACT	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
St. Anne's Adoption Society	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CLANN	0	5	3	2	0	1	0	0	11
St. Louise Adoption Society	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
St. Mura's Adoption Society	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Health Boards	5	20	8	0	0	0	4	0	37
Private Adoption Placements (Outside State)	2	3	4	6	4	2	1	0	22
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
TOTAL	17	59	20	9	4	3	6	2	120
	14.17%	49.17%	16.67%	7.50%	3.33%	2.50%	5.00%	1.67%	100%

Chart 5

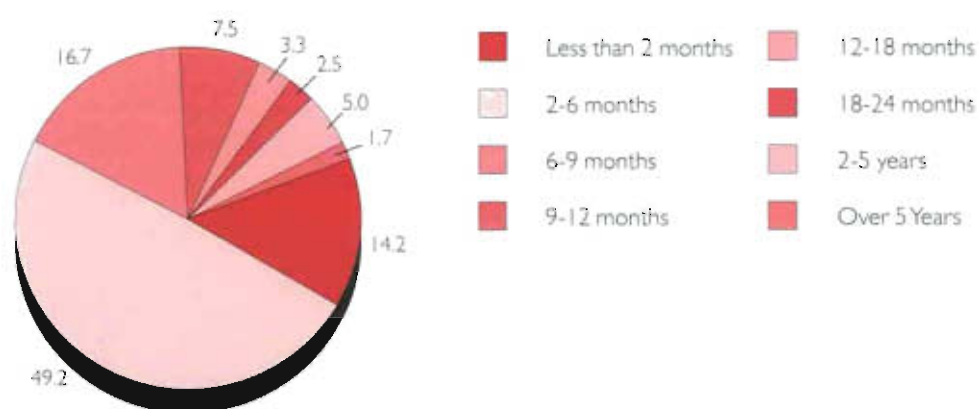


Table 9

LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN DATE OF PLACEMENT AND DATE OF ORDER

	Less than 2 mths	2 – 6 months	6 – 10 months	10 – 14 months	14 – 18 months	18 – 24 months	2 – 5 years	Over 5 years	TOTAL
Cúnamh	0	1	21	1	1	0	0	0	24
PACT	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
St. Anne's Adoption Society	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
CLANN	0	0	10	1	0	0	0	0	11
St. Louise Adoption Society	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
St. Mura's Adoption Society	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Health Boards	0	0	14	6	0	0	3	14	37
Private Adoption Placements (Outside State)	0	4	6	4	2	2	4	0	22
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	8
TOTAL	0	7	63	14	3	4	11	18	120
	0.00%	5.83%	52.50%	11.67%	2.50%	3.33%	9.17%	15.00%	100%

Chart 6

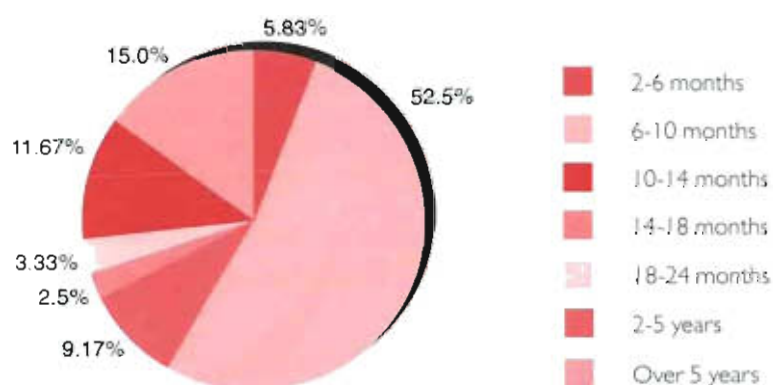


Table 10
LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN DATE OF APPLICATION FOR ORDER AND
MAKING OF ORDER

	<i>Less than 6 mths</i>	<i>6 – 12 months</i>	<i>12 – 18 months</i>	<i>18 – 24 months</i>	<i>Over 2 years</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Cúnamh	9	14	1	0	0	24
PACT	4	0	0	0	0	4
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	1	1	2	0	0	4
St. Anne's Adoption Society	1	3	0	0	0	4
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	1	0	0	0	1
CLANN	3	7	1	0	0	11
St. Louise Adoption Society	0	1	0	1	1	3
St. Mura's Adoption Society	0	2	0	0	0	2
Health Boards	3	19	2	3	10	37
Private Adoption Placements (Outside State)	6	9	5	1	1	22
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	2	0	1	3	2	8
Family Adoptions	18	117	40	6	16	197
TOTAL	47	174	52	14	30	317
	14.83%	54.89%	16.40%	4.42%	9.46%	100%

Chart 7

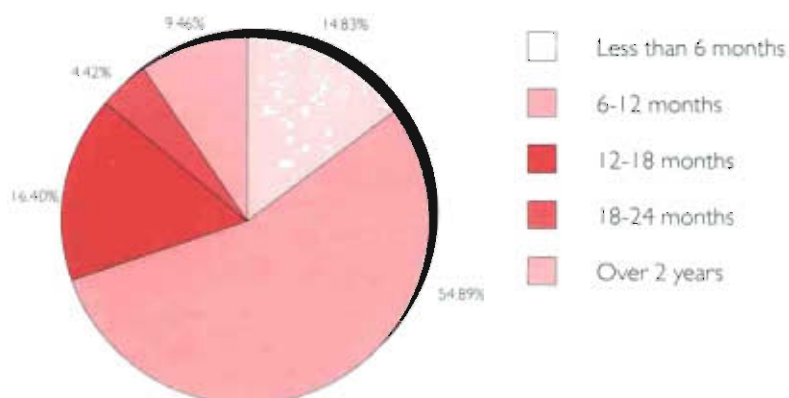


Table 11
INFORMATION ON BIRTH FATHER

	No identifying information	Identity known but not notified of application*	Notified but did not request or did not attend hearing	Heard by Board	Took proceedings**	Deceased	TOTAL***
Cúnamh	14	0	10	0	0	0	24
PACT	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	3	0	1	0	0	0	4
St. Anne's Adoption Society	3	0	1	0	0	0	4
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
CLANN	6	0	5	0	0	0	11
St. Louise Adoption Society	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
St. Mura's Adoption Society	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Health Boards	7	7	17	2	0	4	37
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	2	0	4	1	0	1	8
Private Adoption Placements (Outside State)	17	1	3	0	0	1	22
Family Adoptions	6	40	121	14	5	10	196
TOTAL	60	48	170	17	5	16	316
	18.99%	15.19%	53.80%	5.38%	1.58%	5.06%	100%

* This figure includes cases where the fathers' identities were known but they were untraceable for notification purposes.

** This figure refers to fathers who took proceedings in respect of the child subsequent to being notified of the adoption application or being heard by the Board.

*** This total figure excludes one case where the birth father adopted the child himself.

Table 12**AGE OF ADOPTERS AT TIME OF MAKING OF ADOPTION ORDER**

	18 – 30 years	30 – 35 years	35 – 40 years	40 – 45 years	Over 45 years	TOTAL
Cúnamh	0	20	23	3	0	46
PACT	0	2	4	1	1	8
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	0	1	7	0	0	8
St. Anne's Adoption Society	0	0	6	2	0	8
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	2	0	0	0	2
CLANN	0	2	11	8	1	22
St. Louise Adoption Society	0	1	2	1	2	6
St. Mura's Adoption Society	0	1	2	1	0	4
Health Boards	0	10	29	13	20	72
Private Adoption Placements (Ireland)	1	3	4	1	6	15
Private Adoption Placements (Outside State)	1	7	14	14	8	44
Family Adoptions	159	148	53	18	17	395
TOTAL	161	197	155	62	55	630
	25.56%	31.27%	24.60%	9.84%	8.73%	100%

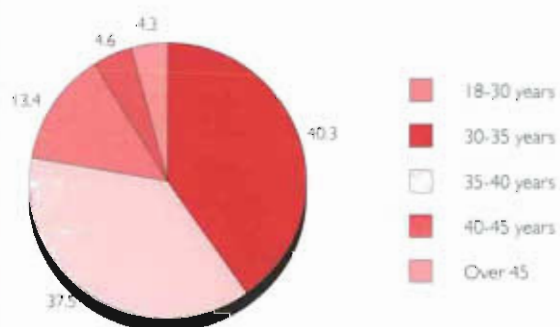
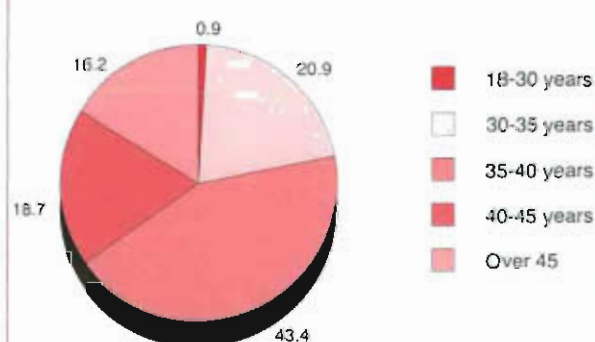
Chart 8**AGE OF ADOPTERS – FAMILY ADOPTIONS****Chart 9****AGE OF ADOPTERS – NON-FAMILY ADOPTIONS**

Table 13
AGE OF BIRTH MOTHER AT DATE OF BIRTH OF CHILD

	Under 16	16 – 18	18 – 21	21 – 25	25 – 30	Over 30	Not known	TOTAL
Cúnamh	0	1	11	4	5	3	0	24
PACT	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	4
Sacred Heart Adoption Society	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
St. Anne's Adoption Society	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
St. Catherine's Adoption Society	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
CLANN	0	1	5	3	1	1	0	11
St. Louise Adoption Society	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
St. Mura's Adoption Society	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Health Boards	0	1	7	14	7	7	1	37
Private Adoption Placements (Irish)	0	1	2	0	1	4	0	8
Private Adoption Placements (Outside State)	0	4	3	5	1	4	5	22
TOTAL	1	12	33	33	16	19	6	120
	0.83%	10.00%	27.50%	27.50%	13.33%	15.83%	5.00%	100.00%

Chart 10

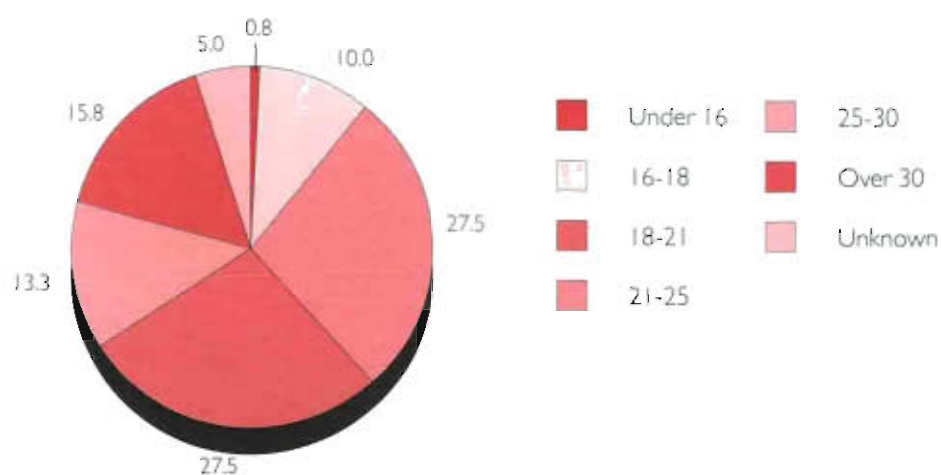


Table 14
ANALYSIS OF PLACEMENTS, 1990-1999

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Number of applications received	660	646	614	529	482	438	407	431	368	367
Number of orders made	648	590	523	500	424	490	405	422	400	317
Orders made in respect of children by:										
Adoption Societies	292	277	244	196	150	109	115	95	68	53
	45.0%	46.9%	46.7%	39.2%	35.4%	22.2%	28.42%	22.5%	17%	16.75%
Health Boards	68	46	64	65	49	48	26	41	31	37
	10.5%	7.8%	12.2%	13.0%	11.5%	9.8%	6.4%	9.7%	7.75%	11.67%
Birth mother and others	20	10	15	17	25	36	21	36	37	30
	3.1%	1.7%	2.9%	3.4%	5.9%	7.4%	5.2%	8.5%	9.25%	9.46%
Number of orders made in respect of family adoptions	268	257	200	222	200	297	243	250	264	197
	41.4%	43.6%	38.2%	44.4%	47.2%	60.6%	60.0%	59.3%	66.0%	62.15%

Graph 1
FAMILY ADOPTIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ADOPTIONS 1990-99

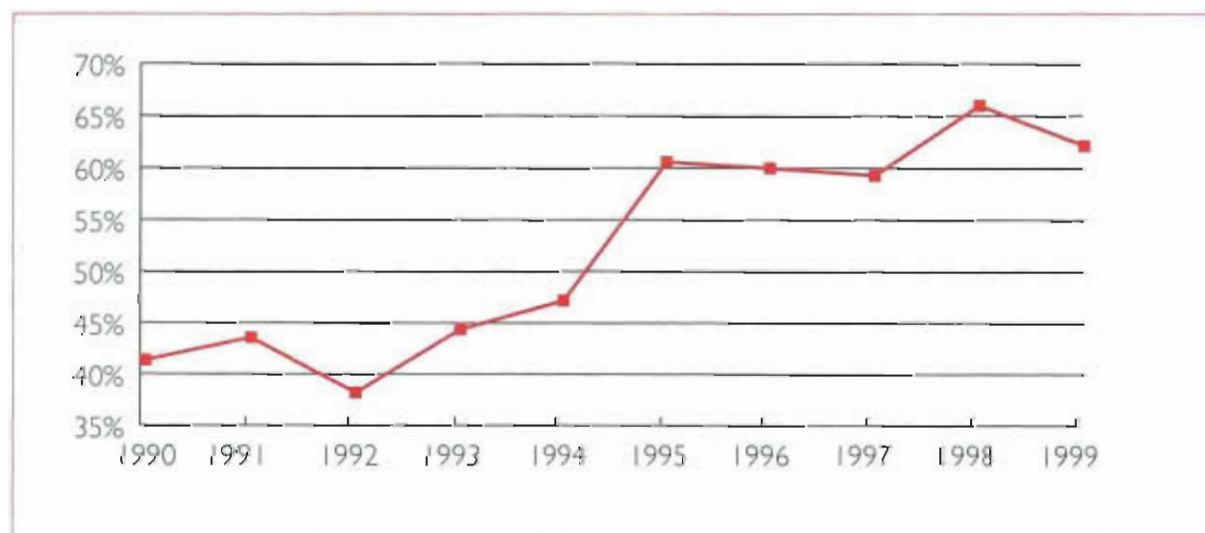


Table 15
BIRTH AND ADOPTION TRENDS IN IRELAND, 1953 – 1999

Year	Total Births	Non-Marital Births	% of Total Births	Number of Adoptions	Adoptions as % of Non-Marital Births
1953	62558	1340	2.14	381	28.4
1954	62534	1310	2.09	888	67.8
1955	61662	1234	2	786	63.7
1956	60740	1173	1.93	565	48.2
1957	61242	1032	1.69	752	72.9
1958	59510	976	1.64	592	60.7
1959	60188	959	1.59	501	52.2
1960	60735	968	1.59	505	52.2
1961	59825	975	1.63	547	56.1
1962	61782	1111	1.8	699	62.9
1963	63246	1157	1.83	840	72.6
1964	64072	1292	2.02	1003	77.6
1965	63525	1403	2.21	1049	74.8
1966	62215	1436	2.31	1178	82
1967	61307	1540	2.51	1493	96.9
1968	61004	1558	2.55	1343	86.2
1969	62912	1642	2.61	1225	74.6
1970	64382	1709	2.65	1414	82.7
1971	67551	1842	2.93	1305	70.8
1972	68527	2005	2.93	1291	64.4
1973	68713	2167	3.15	1402	64.7
1974	68907	2309	3.35	1415	61.3
1975	67178	2515	3.74	1443	57.4
1976	67718	2545	3.76	1104	43.4
1977	68892	2877	4.12	1127	39.2
1978	70299	3003	4.27	1223	40.7
1979	72539	3337	4.6	988	29.6
1980	74064	3723	5.03	1115	29.9
1981	72158	3914	5.42	1191	30.4
1982	70843	4358	6.15	1191	27.3
1983	67117	4552	6.78	1184	26
1984	64062	5116	7.99	1195	23.4
1985	62388	5282	8.5	882	16.7
1986	61620	5946	9.6	800	13.5
1987	58433	6347	10.9	715	11.3
1988	54600	6483	11.9	649	10
1989	52018	6671	12.8	615	9.2
1990	53044	7767	14.6	648	8.3
1991	52718	8912	16.9	590	6.6
1992	51089	9211	18	523	5.6
1993	49304	9826	19.9	500	5.1
1994	47928	9904	20.7	424	4.3
1995	48530	10788	22.2	490	4.5
1996	50390	12484	24.8	405	3.2
1997	52311	13892	26.56	422	3.04
1998	53551	15133	28.26	400	2.64
1999	53354	16461	30.85	317	1.93

Sources: Statistical Abstracts (various years) C.S.O.

Table 16**NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY AND SUITABILITY GRANTED AND REFUSED BY THE ADOPTION BOARD UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1991**

Year	Number of declarations granted	Number of declarations refused
1991	4	1
1992	40	1
1993	54	6
1994	63	3
1995	109	4
1996	117	5
1997	176	1
1998	206	3
1999	242	1
TOTAL	1011	25

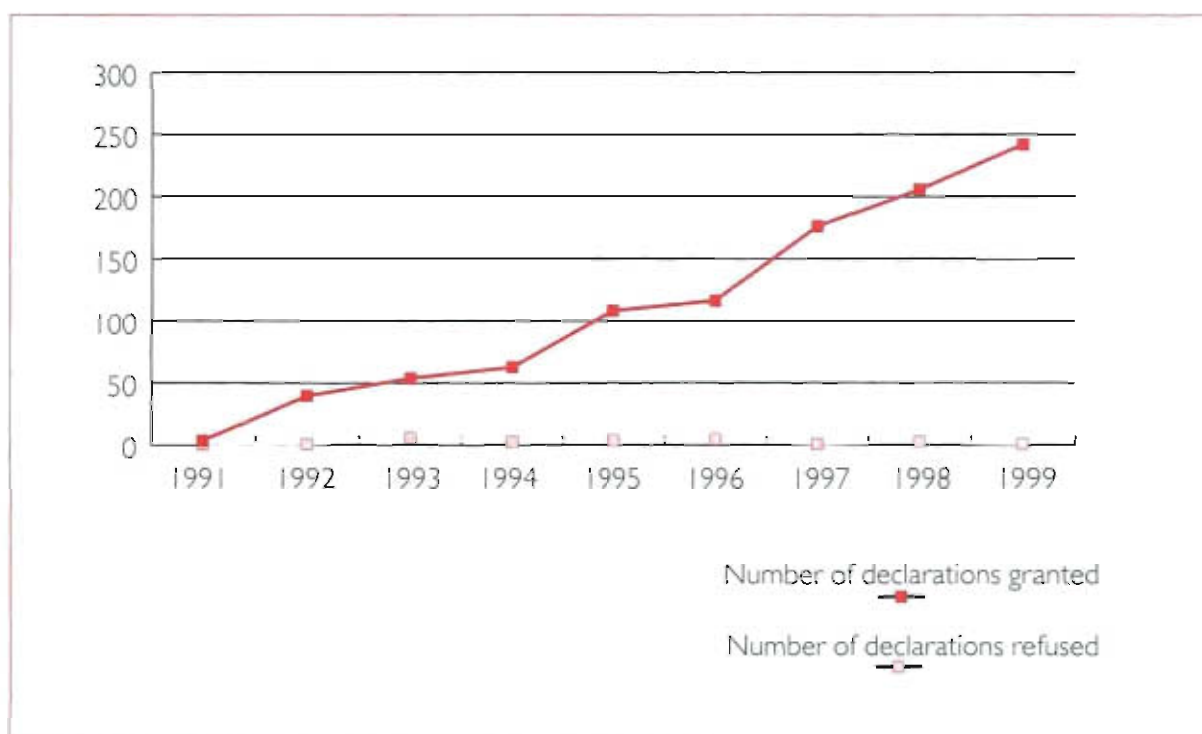
Graph 2**NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY AND SUITABILITY GRANTED AND REFUSED BY THE ADOPTION BOARD UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1991**

Table 17

**DECLARATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY AND SUITABILITY AND EXTENSIONS GRANTED BY THE ADOPTION BOARD
BY HEALTH BOARD AND/OR REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY IN 1999**

Agency	<i>Approval to adopt one child</i>	<i>Approval to adopt one child or two siblings</i>	<i>Approval to adopt three identified siblings</i>	<i>TOTAL – Declarations granted</i>	<i>Extensions granted</i>	<i>TOTAL – Declarations granted and extensions granted</i>
EHB	97	6		103	17	120
MHB	6	2	1	9	4	13
MWHB	6	3		9	2	11
NEHB	21	1		22		22
NWHB	1	0		1	4	5
SEHB	11	6		17	6	23
SHB	41	1		42	4	46
WHB	17	5		22	7	29
Sacred Heart	1	1		2	5	7
Clarecare	2	1		3		3
St. Mura's	4	6		10	2	12
PACT	2	0		2		2
TOTAL	209	32	1	242	51	293

Chart II

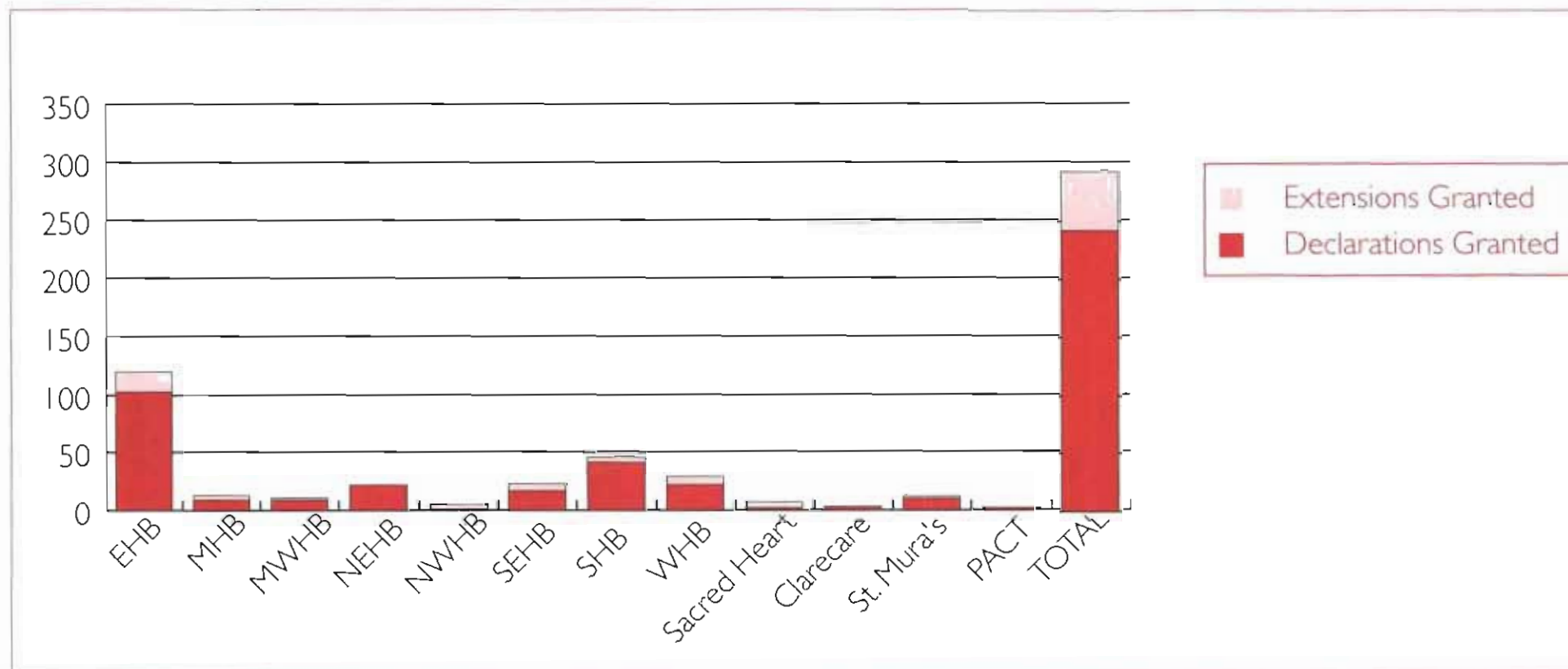
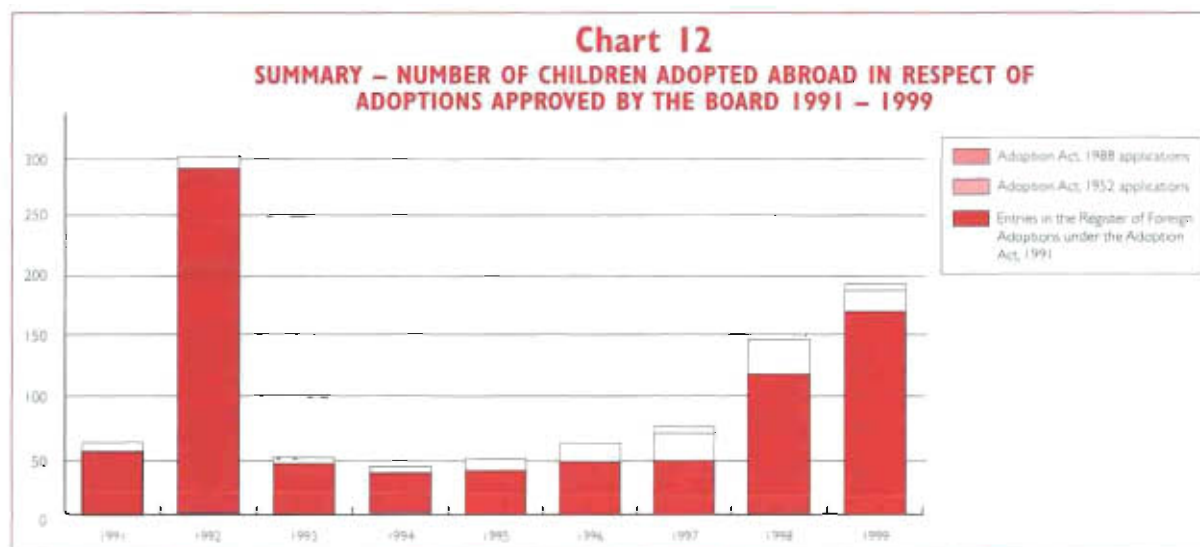
NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY AND SUITABILITY AND EXTENSIONS GRANTED BY THE ADOPTION BOARD IN 1999

Table 18
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED ABROAD FROM
EACH COUNTRY BETWEEN 1991 AND 1999

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Romania	644	64.08%
Russia	133	13.23%
Guatemala	89	8.86%
China	25	2.49%
Brazil	16	1.59%
India	15	1.49%
Colombia	11	1.09%
Paraguay	13	1.29%
Thailand	10	1.00%
Vietnam	9	0.90%
Peru	5	0.50%
Kazakhstan	5	0.50%
Ethiopia	4	0.40%
Belarus	4	0.40%
Mexico	4	0.40%
Texas, USA	3	0.30%
Taiwan	2	0.20%
Uganda	2	0.20%
Bolivia	1	0.10%
Bulgaria	1	0.10%
Chile	1	0.10%
El Salvador	1	0.10%
Israel	1	0.10%
Japan	1	0.10%
Massachusetts, USA	1	0.10%
Sri Lanka	1	0.10%
Venezuela	1	0.10%
Zambia	1	0.10%
TOTAL	1005	100.00%

**Table 19**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED INTO IRELAND WHOSE ADOPTIONS HAVE BEEN ENTERED IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS EACH YEAR 1991 TO 1999

Country	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Belarus				1					4	5
Bolivia				1						1
Brazil		2	3			6	1	1	3	16
Bulgaria								1		1
China						1		14	10	25
Colombia		1		1	1	2	1	2	2	10
El Salvador								1		1
Ethiopia							2	1	1	4
Israel			1							1
Kazakhstan									5	5
Massachusetts, USA						1				1
Mexico									3	3
Paraguay									6	6
Romania	58	294	38	36	36	41	41	44	56	644
Russia			1			1	4	53	74	133
Sri Lanka					1					1
Taiwan					1				1	2
Texas, USA					1	2				3
Thailand							2	3	5	10
Vietnam			1	1					6	8
Zambia			1							1
TOTAL	58	297	45	39	40	54	51	120	176	880

Table 20

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM ABROAD WHOSE ADOPTIONS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1952 BY YEAR OF APPLICATION FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER FROM 1991 TO 1999

<i>Country</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>Total</i>
Chile			1							1
Colombia		1								1
Guatemala		1	1	2	9	15	26	20	10	84
India		1		1		1	3	6	3	15
Japan						1				1
Mexico								1		1
Paraguay				1	1		2			4
Peru	2	1	1	1						5
Venezuela	1									1
TOTAL	3	4	3	5	10	17	31	27	13	113

Table 21

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM ABROAD WHOSE ADOPTIONS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1988 BY YEAR OF APPLICATION FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER FROM 1991 TO 1999

<i>Country</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>Total</i>
Guatemala			2		2				1	5
Lebanon							1			1
Paraguay						1	1		1	3
Uganda			2							2
Vietnam			1							1
TOTAL	0	0	5	0	2	1	2	0	2	12

Table 22

SUMMARY – NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED ABROAD IN RESPECT OF ADOPTIONS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS AND IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER UNDER THE ADOPTION ACTS, 1952 AND 1988

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Entries in the Register of Foreign Adoptions under the Adoption Act, 1991	58	297	45	39	40	54	51	120	176	880
Adoption Act, 1952 Applications	3	4	3	5	10	17	31	27	13	113
Adoption Act, 1988 Applications	0	0	5	0	2	1	2	0	2	12
TOTAL	61	301	53	44	52	72	84	147	191	1005
% OF TOTAL	6.07	29.95	5.27	4.38	5.17	7.16	8.36	14.63	19.00	100

Graph 3

SUMMARY – NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED ABROAD IN RESPECT OF ADOPTIONS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS AND IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER UNDER THE ADOPTION ACTS, 1952 AND 1988

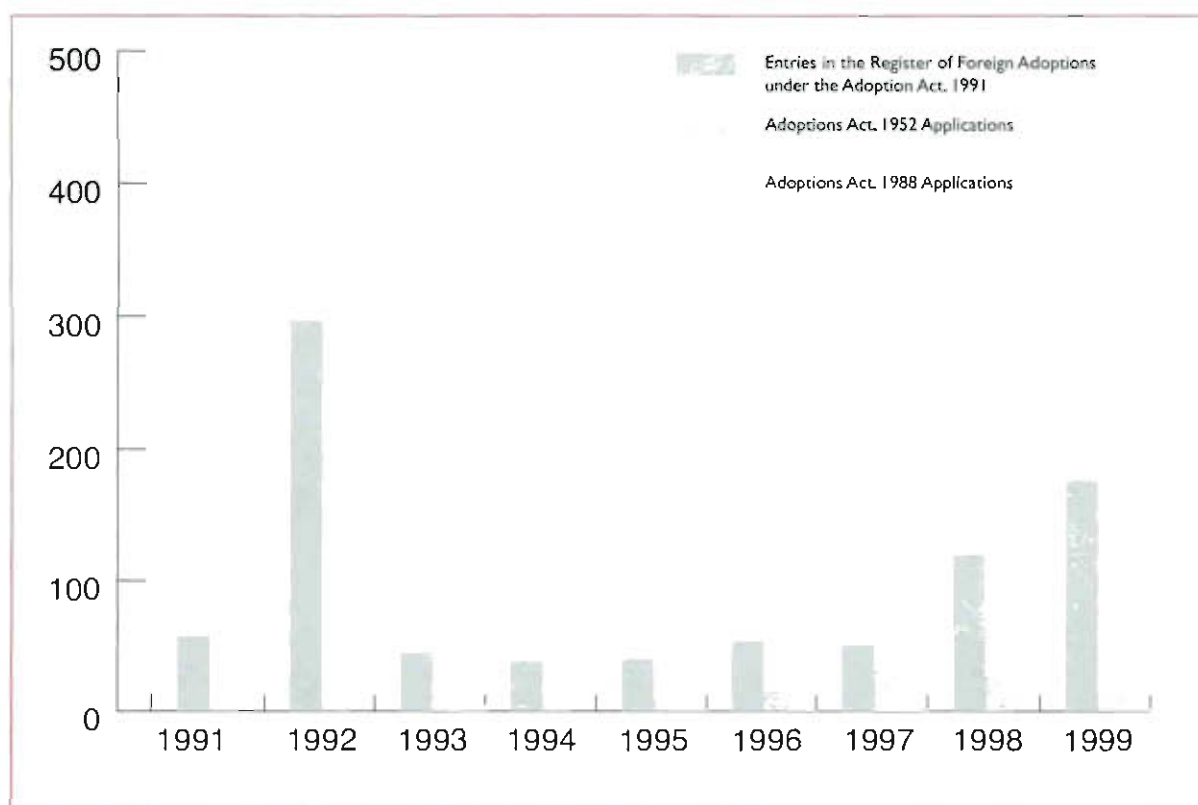


Table 23

AGE OF CHILD AT TIME ADOPTION WAS EFFECTED BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IN RESPECT OF ENTRIES IN FOREIGN ADOPTION REGISTER FOR THE YEARS 1991 – 1999

Country	0 < 1 year old	1 < 2 years old	2 < 3 years old	3 < 4 years old	4 < 5 years old	5 < 6 years old	6 < 7 years old	7 years & older	TOTAL
Belarus				1		1	1	1	4
Bolivia			1						1
Brazil	8	2		2	2		1	1	16
Bulgaria		1							1
China	10	15							25
Colombia	4	2	2		1		1		10
El Salvador	1								1
Ethiopia	2				1			1	4
Israel		1							1
Kazakhstan	3	1		1					5
Massachusetts, USA	1								1
Mexico	2	1							3
Paraguay					3	3			6
Romania	328	164	87	51	10	2	1	1	644
Russia	77	28	13	7	4	3		1	133
Sri Lanka	1								1
Taiwan	1	1							2
Texas, USA	3								3
Thailand		1	2	6	1				10
Vietnam	7		1						8
Zambia								1	1
TOTAL	448	217	106	68	22	9	4	6	880
% OF TOTAL	50.91	24.66	12.05	7.73	2.50	1.02	0.45	0.68	100

Table 24**AGE OF CHILD AT TIME OF PLACEMENT FOR ALL FOREIGN ADOPTIONS PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1952 BETWEEN 1991 AND 1999**

Country	0 < 1 year old	1 < 2 years old	2 < 3 years old	3 < 4 years old	4 < 5 years old	5 < 6 years old	6 < 7 years old	7 years & older	TOTAL
Chile		1							1
Colombia		1							1
Guatemala	65	15	2	1				1	84
India	7	3	3	1				1	15
Japan	1								1
Mexico	1								1
Paraguay	4								4
Peru	2	1	1	1					5
Venezuela			1						1
TOTAL	80	21	7	3	0	0	0	2	113
% OF TOTAL	70.80	18.58	6.19	2.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.77	100

Table 25**AGE OF CHILD ADOPTED FROM ABROAD AT TIME OF PLACEMENT FOR APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER WHICH HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1988 IN THE YEARS 1991 – 1999**

Country	0 < 1 year old	1 < 2 years old	2 < 3 years old	3 < 4 years old	4 < 5 years old	5 < 6 years old	6 < 7 years old	7 years & older	TOTAL
Guatemala	3	1	1						5
Lebanon	1								1
Paraguay	2	1							3
Uganda	1	1							2
Vietnam	1								1
TOTAL	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
% OF TOTAL	66.67	25.00	8.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100

Table 26

SUMMARY – AGE OF CHILD AT TIME OF PLACEMENT IN RESPECT OF ADOPTIONS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS AND IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER UNDER THE ADOPTION ACTS 1952 AND 1988 BETWEEN 1991 AND 1999

	0 < 1 year old	1 < 2 years old	2 < 3 years old	3 < 4 years old	4 < 5 years old	5 < 6 years old	6 < 7 years old	7 years & older	TOTAL
Entries in the Register of Foreign Adoptions under the Adoption Act, 1991	448	217	106	68	22	9	4	6	880
Adoption Act, 1952 Applications	80	21	7	3	0	0	0	2	113
Adoption Act, 1988	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
TOTAL	536	241	114	71	22	9	4	8	1005
% OF TOTAL	53.33%	23.98%	11.34%	7.06%	2.19%	0.90%	0.40%	0.80%	100%

Chart 13

SUMMARY – AGE OF CHILD AT TIME OF PLACEMENT IN RESPECT OF ADOPTIONS ENTERED IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS AND IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER UNDER THE ADOPTION ACTS 1952 AND 1988 BETWEEN 1991 AND 1999

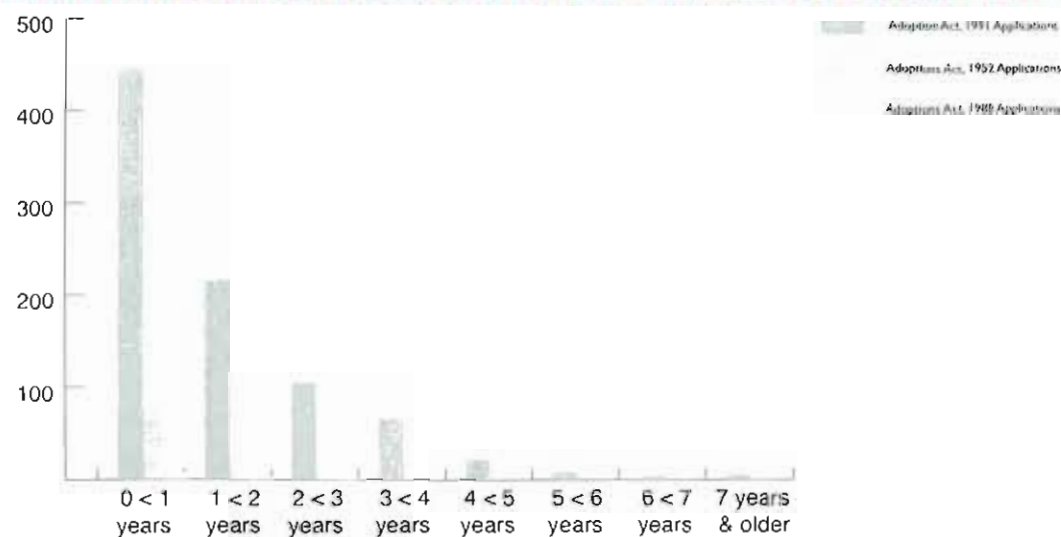


Table 27

SEX OF CHILD FOR CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM ABROAD WHOSE ADOPTIONS HAVE BEEN ENTERED IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1991 IN THE YEARS 1991 TO 1999

Country	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		Total for the Years 1991 to 1999		
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total Boys	Total Girls	Total
Belarus																	1	3	1	3	4
Bolivia							1												1		1
Brazil				2	1	2					2	4	1		1		2	1	7	9	16
Bulgaria															1					1	1
China												1				14	1	9	1	24	25
Colombia			1					1	1		2			1		2	2		6	4	10
El Salvador															1					1	1
Ethiopia													1	1	1		1		3	1	4
Israel						1														1	1
Kazakhstan																	1	4	1	4	5
Massachusetts, USA												1								1	1
Mexico																	2	1	2	1	3
Paraguay																	3	3	3	3	6
Romania	27	31	144	150	16	22	18	18	15	21	23	18	18	23	17	27	27	29	305	339	644
Russia					1						1		3	1	34	19	40	34	79	54	133
Sri Lanka										1										1	1
Taiwan										1								1		2	2
Texas, USA										1	2								2	1	3
Thailand													1	1	2	1	3	2	6	4	10
Vietnam						1		1									1	5	1	7	8
Zambia					1														1		1
TOTAL	27	31	145	152	19	26	19	20	16	24	30	24	24	27	55	65	84	92	419	461	880

Table 28

SEX OF CHILD FOR CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM ABROAD WHOSE APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1952 IN THE YEARS 1991 TO 1999.

	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		Total for the Years 1991 to 1999		
Country	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total Boys	Total Girls	Total
Chile						1														1	1
Colombia			1																1		1
Guatemala			1		1		1	1	8	1	9	6	11	15	14	6	4	6	49	35	84
India				1				1				1		3	2	4		3	2	13	15
Japan												1								1	1
Mexico															1				1		1
Paraguay								1	1				1	1					2	2	4
Peru		2		1		1		1												5	5
Venezuela	1																		1		1
TOTAL	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	4	9	1	9	8	12	19	17	10	4	9	56	57	113

Table 29

SEX OF CHILD FOR CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM ABROAD WHOSE APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1988 IN THE YEARS 1991 TO 1999.

	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		Total for the Years 1991 to 1999		
Country	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total Boys	Total Girls	Total
Guatemala						2			1	1								1	1	4	5
Lebanon													1						1		1
Paraguay											1		1					1	2	1	3
Uganda					2														2		2
Vietnam						1														1	1
TOTAL					2	3			1	1	1		2					2	6	6	12

Table 30

SUMMARY – SEX OF CHILD FOR CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM ABROAD WHOSE ADOPTIONS HAVE BEEN ENTERED IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS AND IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER UNDER THE ADOPTION ACTS 1952 AND 1988

Country	Boys	Girls
Entries in the Register of Foreign Adoptions under the Adoption Act, 1991	419	461
Adoption Act, 1952 Applications	56	57
Adoption Act, 1988, Applications	6	6
TOTAL	481	524

Table 31

AGE OF APPLICANT(S) AT TIME OF APPLICATION TO THE ADOPTION BOARD ALLOCATED (1) BY YEAR OF ENTRY IN THE REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS IN RESPECT OF ADOPTIONS RECOGNISED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1991 AND (2) BY YEAR OF APPLICATION FOR AN ADOPTION ORDER UNDER THE ADOPTION ACTS, 1952 AND 1988

	1991		1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		Total number of Applicants 1991 – 1999	
AGE RANGE	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	No. of Applicants	%	TOTAL	%
Under 25 years			1	0.23%													0	0.00%	1	0.08%
25<30 years old	4	4.76%	33	7.59%	1	1.39%	2	2.90%	4	4.26%	3	2.59%	2	1.41%	7	2.63%	3	0.87%	56	4.38%
30<35 years old	23	27.38%	132	30.34%	14	19.44%	22	31.88%	35	37.23%	43	37.07%	41	28.87%	53	19.92%	54	15.61%	363	28.40%
35<39 years old	24	28.57%	113	25.98%	19	26.39%	20	28.99%	18	19.15%	33	28.45%	42	29.58%	82	30.83%	115	33.24%	351	27.46%
39<43 years old	18	21.43%	70	16.09%	24	33.33%	11	15.94%	21	22.34%	21	18.10%	31	21.83%	68	25.56%	94	27.17%	264	20.66%
43<47 years old	10	11.90%	53	12.18%	8	11.11%	7	10.14%	11	11.70%	9	7.76%	19	13.38%	37	13.91%	57	16.47%	154	12.05%
47<50 years old	2	2.38%	19	4.37%	6	8.33%	5	7.25%	3	3.19%	3	2.59%	4	2.82%	12	4.51%	14	4.05%	54	4.23%
50<54 years old	2	2.38%	5	1.15%			1	1.45%	2	2.13%	3	2.59%	3	2.11%	5	1.88%	5	1.45%	21	1.64%
54<57 years old	1	1.19%	4	0.92%			1	1.45%			1	0.86%					4	1.16%	7	0.55%
57<60 years old			1	0.23%											2	0.75%	0	0.00	3	0.23%
60 years and older			4	0.92%													0	0.00%	4	0.31%
TOTAL	84	100%	435	100%	72	100%	69	100%	94	100%	116	100%	142	100%	266	100%	346	100%	1278	100%

Prior to the enactment of the Adoption Act, 1991 applicants were able to adopt abroad without a declaration of eligibility and suitability – these applicants are allocated by year of initial application to the Board.

Table 32

NUMBER OF SOLE APPLICANTS WHO ADOPTED CHILDREN FROM ABROAD WHOSE ADOPTIONS WERE (1) RECOGNISED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1991 AND (2) PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1988 FOR THE YEARS 1991 – 1999. THERE WERE NO APPLICATIONS PROCESSED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1952

Year	<i>Number of sole applicants who had the adoption entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions by year of entry, Adoption Act, 1991 (1)</i>	<i>Number of sole applicants by year of application for an adoption order whose applications were processed under the Adoption Act, 1988 (2)</i>
1991	0	0
1992	7	0
1993	2	2
1994	1	0
1995	0	0
1996	0	0
1997	0	0
1998	2	0
1999	2	0
TOTAL	14	2

Only one sole applicant who had an adoption entered in the Register of Foreign Adoptions was male (1992).

Table 33

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORIES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS WHO HAD ENTRIES MADE IN THE BOARD'S REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS IN 1999 IN RESPECT OF ADOPTIONS RECOGNISED UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT, 1991.

Country	Number	%
Professional	38	11.88%
Managerial/Technical	132	41.25%
Non-Manual	52	16.25%
Skilled Manual	33	10.31%
Semi-skilled	18	5.63%
Unskilled	1	0.31%
Housewife	46	14.38%
Total	320	100.00%

(Categories based on Census of the Population social classes – list of constituent occupations based on Central Statistics Office data – (statistics for housewives also included)).

Chart 14

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORIES OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS WHO HAD ENTRIES MADE IN THE BOARD'S REGISTER OF FOREIGN ADOPTIONS IN 1999

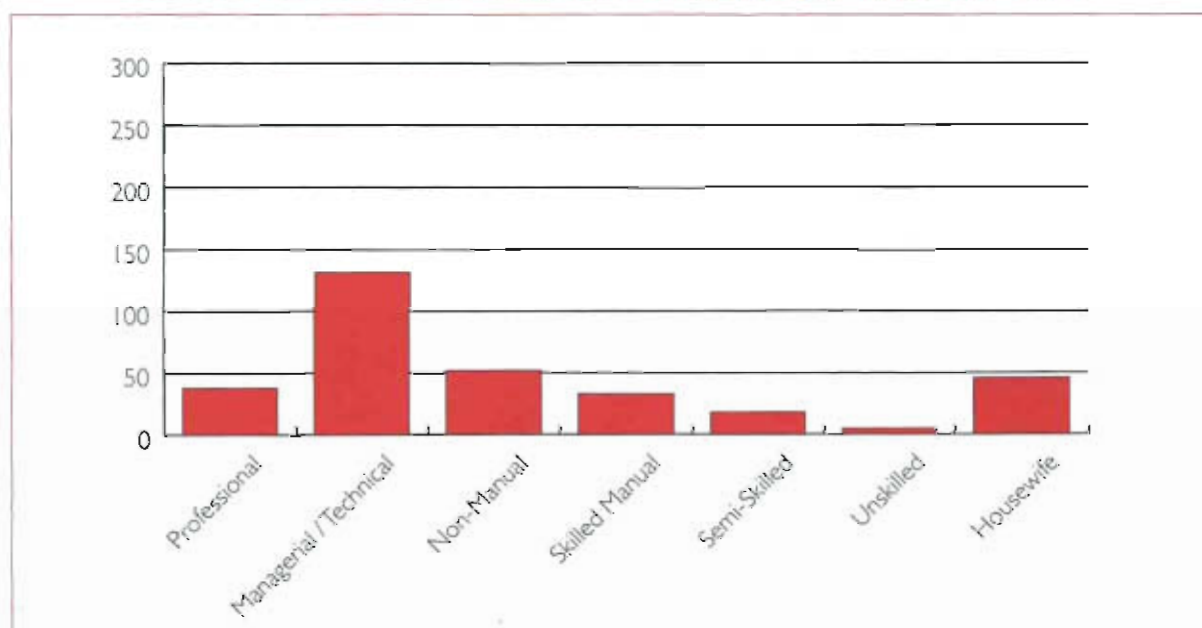


Table 34**APPLICATIONS FORWARDED TO P.R. CHINA FOR 1998 AND 1999**

<i>Application Status</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Applications Transmitted	19	20
Adoptions Finalised	19	15
Applications Cancelled	0	1

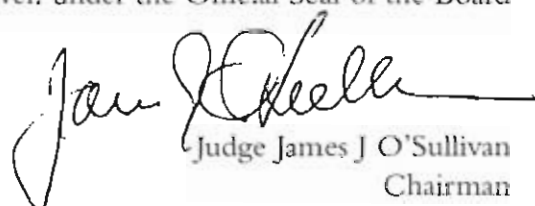
Table 35**APPLICATIONS FORWARDED TO THAILAND FOR 1998 AND 1999**

<i>Application Status</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Applications Transmitted	0	7
Adoptions Finalised	0	0
Applications Cancelled	0	2

Table 36**APPLICATIONS FORWARDED TO BELARUS FOR 1998 AND 1999**

<i>Application Status</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
Applications Transmitted	0	4
Adoptions Finalised	0	2
Applications Cancelled	0	0

Given under the Official Seal of the Board



Judge James J O'Sullivan
Chairman

ISBN 0-7076-6507-8



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