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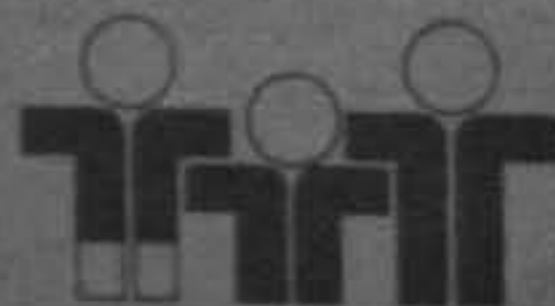
Adoption Board annual report 1984

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Report of An Bord Uchtála

(The Adoption Board)

1984



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REPORT OF AN BORD UCHTÁLA (THE ADOPTION BOARD) FOR 1984

29th March, 1985

To: Mr. Barry Desmond, T.D.,
Minister for Health.

The Board has the honour to present its thirty-second Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1984.

Board members:-

DISTRICT JUSTICE AGNES B. CASSIDY, *M.A., LL.B.*,
Barrister-at-Law, Chairman,

SUSAN GAGEBY DENHAM, *B.A. (mod), LL.B., LL.M.*,
Barrister-at-Law, Deputy Chairman,

DOROTHY DILLON BROWNE,

VIVIENNE DARLING, *M.A.*,

BRIAN DOOLAN,

MICHAEL P. FLYNN, *M.D., D.P.H.*,

NORA NOWLAN, *B.A. (mod)*

Registrar: JOHN CRONIN

Medical Adviser: DR. J. STEPHEN DOYLE, *M.D., F.R.C.P.I.*,
*Professor of Medicine in the Medical School of the Royal College of Surgeons
in Ireland.*

During the year, 1195 adoption orders were made. Since the Adoption Act, 1952, came into operation on 1st January, 1953 a total of 32,935 adoption orders have been made up to 31st December, 1984.

The following statistical summary covers the year 1984:-

1. Total number of meetings held74
2. No. of meetings devoted to the making of adoption orders52
3. No. of meetings devoted to the other work of the Board22

The business at these 22 meetings included:-

- (a) general policy matters, including a review of the Board's practices and procedures,
- (b) consideration of problems arising in 280 applications,
- (c) meetings with representatives of the Central Council of Catholic Adoption Societies and three adoption societies,
- (d) special interviews with: applicants; applicants' legal advisers; natural mothers; natural fathers; persons having information as to eligibility of children for adoption; persons pursuant to section 3 of the Adoption Act, 1976; persons authorised to act on behalf of the Board under section 4(1) of the said Act. Forty-five persons in all were interviewed.

4. No. of applications for adoption orders received by the Board956
5. No. of adoption orders made1195
6. No. of interim orders made0
7. No. of adoption orders refused4
8. No. of applications for adoption orders withdrawn or not proceeded with by the applicants30
9. No. of children reclaimed by the natural mother18
10. No. of children removed from applicants by the placing society1
11. No. of registered adoption societies concerned in the applications19

NOTE: The difference between the number of applications received and the number of adoption orders made etc. is explained by the carry-over of cases from previous years.

The Board held the following meetings:

Location	Number of Visits	Number of Meetings
DUBLIN		54
CORK	3	8
LIMERICK	3	5
GALWAY	2	3
SLIGO.....	2	3
KILKENNY	1	1
		74

The adoption orders made during the year are further analysed as follows:-

In Respect of	Number
Boys	665
Girls	530
Children placed by registered adoption societies	793
Children placed by health boards	85
Children placed by the natural mother with non-relatives	20

Family adoptions:-

Natural mother and her husband	225
Natural mother	4
Natural father and his wife	4
Grandparents or other relatives	64
	297

Orders made in favour of applicants resident in each health board area:-

	Number	Percentage	Census 1981 Percentage of total population resident in each area
Eastern Health Board	487	40.75	34.70
Southern Health Board	222	18.58	15.25
Mid-Western Health Board	114	9.53	8.95
South Eastern Health Board	101	8.45	10.88
North Eastern Health Board	82	6.87	8.39
Western Health Board	82	6.87	9.91
Midland Health Board	55	4.60	5.87
North Western Health Board	52	4.35	6.05
TOTALS	1,195	100.00	100.00

The following are the names and addresses of the adoption societies concerned in the adoption orders made during the year, together with the number of orders in which each society was concerned:-

Catholic Protection and Rescue Society of Ireland, 30 South Anne Street, Dublin 2.....	114
*Limerick Catholic Adoption Society, 39 Catherine Street, Limerick	26
¹ Challenge, Registered Adoption Society and Counselling Service for Single and Adoptive Parents, c/o Sion House, Kilkenny	37
Protestant Adoption Society and Single Parent Counselling Service, 71 Brighton Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6	8
R.G.A.S., 82 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1	55
Sacred Heart Convent, Blackrock, Cork.....	68
St. Anne's Adoption Society, Assumption Convent, Blackpool, Cork	69
St. Attracta's Adoption Society, St. Mary's, Sligo	37
St. Brigid's Orphanage, Holy Faith Convent, The Coombe, Dublin 8	34
St. Catherine's Adoption Society, O'Connell Street, Ennis, Co. Clare	23
St. Clare's Adoption Society, Stamullen, Co. Meath	38
St. John's Adoption Society, 21 The Folly, Waterford.....	6
**St. Kevin's Adoption Society, St. Joseph's Hospital, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	15

¹On 12th September, 1984, the Board approved this society's application to change its name from "Ossory Adoption Society" to "Challenge, Registered Adoption Society and Counselling Service for Single and Adoptive Parents".

**St. Louise Adoption Society, 1 James's Street, Dublin 8	78
*St. Mary's Adoption Society, 20 Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry	20
St. Mura's Adoption Society, Fahan, Lifford, Co. Donegal	21
*St. Nicholas' Adoption Society, Western Health Board, Community Care Services, Newcastle Road, Galway ..	20
St. Patrick's Guild, 82 Haddington Road, Dublin 4.....	102
St. Thérèse Adoption Society, Carmelite Priory, Whitefriar Street, Dublin 8.....	22
	<hr/> 793

*These societies are run in association with the local health board.

**These societies are operated entirely by staff of the South Eastern Health Board and Eastern Health Board, respectively.

There were no applications for the registration of adoption societies and no registration was cancelled during the year under review.

No. of orders made in respect of children placed by health boards:-

Southern Health Board	41
Eastern Health Board	12
North Eastern Health Board	9
Midland Health Board	8
Western Health Board	8
South Eastern Health Board	4
North Western Health Board	3
Mid-Western Health Board	0
	<u>85</u>

NOTE: These figures do not include the adoption orders made in respect of children placed by adoption societies which are operated by or in association with a health board.

Classification of Adopters according to their Socio-Economic Group

Farmers, Farmers' Relatives and Farm Managers	90
Other Agricultural Occupations and Fishermen	11
Higher Professional	92
Lower Professional	73
Self-Employed (Employing Others) and Managers	128
Salaried Employees	103
Intermediate Non-Manual Workers	137
Other Non-Manual Workers	97
Skilled Manual Workers	301
Semi-Skilled Manual Workers	59
Unskilled Manual Workers	94
Home Duties	<u>10</u>
	1195

NOTE: Those who were unemployed on the date that the order was made were classified by their previous occupations.

Where both applicants were gainfully employed outside the home the classification is in accordance with the occupation of the husband.

Age of the child at the date of the adoption order:-

Under one year	574
Between 1 and 2 years	258
Between 2 and 3 years	43
Between 3 and 4 years	41
Between 4 and 5 years	51
Between 5 and 10 years	181
Between 10 and 15 years	33
Between 15 and 21 years	<u>14</u>
	1195

Year of birth of children in respect of whom adoption orders were made:-

1963 — 6	1970 — 5	1977 — 39
1964 — 1	1971 — 6	1978 — 47
1965 — 2	1972 — 8	1979 — 60
1966 — 1	1973 — 12	1980 — 43
1967 — 0	1974 — 10	1981 — 40
1968 — 3	1975 — 24	1982 — 90
1969 — 4	1976 — 27	1983 — 619
		1984 — 148

TOTAL — 1,195

NOTE: This table relates to the year of birth not to the year of application.

Analysis of Placements 1975-1984

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
No. of applications received	1426	1277	1296	1228	1234	1354	1189	1254	1115	956
No. of adoption orders made	1443	1104	1127	1223	988	1115	1191	1191	1184	1195
No. of orders made in respect of children placed by:										
— adoption societies	1164	905	938	1064	845	928	951	879	921	793
%	80.7%	82.0%	83.2%	87.0%	85.5%	83.2%	79.9%	73.8%	77.8%	66.3%
— health boards	123	91	79	52	42	77	80	80	75	85
%	8.5%	8.2%	7.1%	4.2%	4.3%	6.9%	6.7%	6.7%	6.3%	7.1%
— the natural mother with non-relatives	30	9	6	12	7	5	13	11	15	20
%	2.1%	0.8%	0.5%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%	1.1%	0.9%	1.3%	1.7%
No. of orders made in respect of family adoptions	126	99	104	95	94	105	147	221	173	297
%	8.7%	9.0%	9.2%	7.8%	9.5%	9.4%	12.3%	18.6%	14.6%	24.9%

Analysis of Family Adoptions 1980-84

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
No. of orders made in respect of family adoptions	105 9.4%	147 12.3%	221 18.6%	173 14.6%	297 24.9%
No. of orders made in favour of:					
— natural mothers and their husbands	59 5.3%	90 7.5%	128 10.8%	103 8.7%	225 18.9%
— other relatives	46 4.1%	57 4.8%	93 7.8%	70 5.9%	72 6.0%

NOTE: For the purposes of this table “other relatives” includes: the natural father; grandparents; brother; sister; uncle; aunt.

Enquiries from Adopted Persons

The Board continues to receive enquiries from adopted persons seeking information on their background. Fifty-two enquiries were received in 1984. The Board is willing to make available to adoptees such non-identifying information as it has on file and to give any other assistance possible. Regretfully, in many of the earlier cases the amount of information is scant.

Given under the Official Seal of the Board

Agnes B. Cassidy
CHAIRMAN

