

Application for a contact order under section 26 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Form A53)

Notes on completing the form

Important

This form is for use only if you are applying for a contact order under Section 26 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

If you are attaching any order of the High Court or a county court to your application, it must be a sealed copy of the order (that is, a copy that has been stamped with the seal of the court). If you are attaching an order made by a magistrates' court, it must be a certified copy (a copy certified by the court officer to be a true copy of the original order), or a copy that bears the stamp of the originating court. An order issued by any other authority must be properly authenticated by that authority. If you are in any doubt about what is needed, please contact the court for assistance.

Take or send the completed application form, and **three copies**, to the court, together with the court fee and any documents you are attaching in support of your application. If you are not sure about the court fee payable for your application, or you think that you may be exempt from paying all or part of the fee, you should contact the court for information.

Notes on the application form

Note 1

Where a child under six weeks old has been placed for adoption under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or an adoption agency is authorised to place a child for adoption under the Act, contact with the child may only be:

- by arrangement with the agency that has placed the child, or is authorised to do so, **or**
- by a court order made under section 26 of the Act.

Any existing provision for contact with the child made under the Children Act 1989 ceases to have effect (section 26(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002).

An application to the court for a contact order may be made by:

- the child;
- the adoption agency;
- any parent, guardian or relative;*
- any person in whose favour there was provision for contact under the Children Act 1989 which ceased to have effect by virtue of section 26(1) of the 2002 Act;
- a person who had the benefit of a residence order immediately before the adoption agency was authorised to place the child for adoption, or placed the child for adoption at a time when he/she was less than six weeks old;
- a person who by virtue of an order made in the exercise of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction with respect to children (wardship) had care of the child immediately before the adoption agency was authorised to place the child for adoption, or placed the child for adoption at a time when he/she was less than six weeks old; **or**
- any person who has the permission of the court to make the application. An application for the court's permission must be made under Part 18 of the Family Procedure Rules 2010, using form FP2.

*'relative' means a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, whether of the full blood or half-blood, or by marriage or civil partnership.