

Application for a Convention adoption order (Form A59)

Notes on completing the form

Important

This form should only be used if you wish to apply for a Convention adoption order.

You need to complete Form A61 (Application for parental responsibility prior to adoption abroad) if you are applying for a Convention adoption order but intend to adopt a child who is habitually resident in the United Kingdom (or who is a Commonwealth citizen) in a place outside of the British Islands (and provided you do not already have an order to remove the child under Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 or the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987) even if you will be applying for a Convention adoption order in a place outside the British Islands.

'Convention adoption order' means an adoption order which, by virtue of regulations under section 1 of the Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act 1999, is made as a Convention adoption order.

'the Convention' means the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, concluded at the Hague on 29th May 1993.

In these notes, any reference to a birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate or certificate of civil partnership obtained in England and Wales means a certified copy of the entry in the Register of Live Births, the Register of Deaths, the Register of Marriages or the Register of Civil Partnerships, as appropriate. A photocopy is not acceptable. Where the United Kingdom is the State of origin the birth certificate you send to the court for the child you are applying to adopt must be a certified copy of the full entry in the Register of Live Births.

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.

Note 1

Notes on the application form

Enter the name of the child you are applying to adopt, surname last.

Where the UK is the State of origin you must enter the full first name(s) and the surname of the child exactly as they are shown on the birth certificate (or, if the child has previously been adopted, the certified copy of the entry in the Adopted Children Register) you are sending with your application (see note 11 below).

Where the UK is the receiving State you must enter the full first name(s) and the surname of the child exactly as they are shown on the certified copy of the child's original birth certificate, any abandonment certificate/declaration, or where the child has been adopted, the certified copy of the entry in the register of adoptions as recognised in the State of origin or a certified copy of the adoption certificate (see note 11 below).

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