

Application for variation of a placement order (Form A51)

Notes on completing the form

Important

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.

Notes on the application form

Note 1

The court may only vary a placement order so as to substitute another local authority for the local authority authorised by the order to place the child for adoption on the joint application of **both** the authorities involved. (Section 23(2) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002)

Note 2

Enter the child's first names(s) and last name as they are shown on the placement order you are asking the court to vary. **You must attach a copy of the placement order to your application.**

Note 3

Set out your reasons for applying for the transfer of responsibility between local authorities. State why the transfer would be in the best interests of the child, and any administrative reasons which make the transfer desirable.

Note 4

Enter details of any other earlier and concurrent court proceedings relating to the child. Do not repeat the details of the placement order entered at paragraph 7. In each case, give the name of the court, the nature of the proceedings and the date and effect of any order made. If either authority was a party to any proceedings that have been completed, a copy of the final order should be attached to the application.

Note 5

If the child has previously been adopted, give the names of his/her adoptive parents and not those of his/her natural parents.

Note 6

If the child's parents were not married at the time of his/her birth, the child's father may have acquired parental responsibility

- by subsequent marriage to the child's mother;
- because he has a parental responsibility agreement with the mother, or has been granted a parental responsibility order, or
- because he registered the child's birth jointly with the child's mother (on or after 1 December 2003).

Give details of any court order or agreement in respect of parental responsibility in paragraph 9 (About other orders or proceedings that affect the child).