

Consent to the placement of my child for adoption with identified prospective adopters

Section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002

Name of child.....

Before signing this form you are advised to seek legal advice about consenting to placement for adoption and the effect on your parental rights. Publicly funded legal advice may be available from the Community Legal Service. You can get information about this or find a solicitor through CLS Direct on www.clsdirect.org.uk or by telephoning 0845 345 4 345

Name and address of the adoption agency in the matter:

.....

I consent to _____ (my child), who is the child to whom the attached certified copy of the entry in the Register of Live Births relates, being placed for adoption with

*[_____ (the named prospective adopter(s))]

*[the prospective adopter(s) identified as _____]
 (*complete as appropriate)

If my child is adopted, I understand that I will no longer legally be treated as the parent and that my child will become a part of the adopter(s)' family. I also understand that my consent to placement for adoption means that the adoption agency will have parental responsibility for my child and my own parental rights will be restricted. When my child is placed with the prospective adopter(s), they will also have parental responsibility.

I understand that, once I have signed this form and consented to my child's placement for adoption, my right to change my mind and ask for my child's return will be limited and may be lost altogether. I also understand that I may not remove my child from the adoption agency or the prospective adopter(s) and that, if I do, I may be liable to prosecution.

I understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time until the prospective adopter(s) start(s) an adoption application in the court. If I do withdraw my consent and want my child returned to me, I understand that I must notify the adoption agency that I have changed my mind and I must, at all times, act through the agency and not approach the prospective adopter(s) directly.

If I withdraw my consent, I understand that whether or not my child is returned to me will depend on a number of factors:

- If at the time my child has not been placed with the prospective adopter(s), the agency will return my child to me within seven days of receiving my notification, unless they still consider that my child ought to be adopted. In that case, an application may have been or may be made to the court for a placement order and my child will only be returned to me if the court gives permission.
- If at the time my child has been placed with the prospective adopter(s), but they have not yet applied to the court for an adoption order then
 - *either* an application may have been or may be made to the court for a placement order and my child will only be returned to me if the court gives permission;
 - *or* the agency will give the prospective adopter(s) notice that they must return my child to the agency within fourteen days, and the agency will then return the child to me.
- If at the time the prospective adopter(s) have already applied to the court for an adoption order, I understand that I will not be able to ask the agency for my child to be returned. I will be entitled to be told when the prospective adopters make their application to the court, but I will only be able to oppose the making of the adoption order if the court gives me permission to do so. For the court to consider giving permission, I must be able to show that there has been a change of circumstances since I gave my consent.

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