

## Application for a Placement Order (Form A50)

### 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. If you are attaching a statement of facts (see note 11 below), please supply two additional copies of the statement.

#### Notes on the application form

##### Note 1

Enter the child's first names(s) and last name exactly as they are shown on the certified copy of the full entry in the Register of Live Births (or, if the child has previously been adopted, the register of Adopted Children) you are sending with your application, otherwise enter the first name(s) and last name by which the child is known.

##### Note 2

If you do not want the child's address to be disclosed to any other party, **do not enter the details on this application form**. Instead you should give the details on Form A65, which you must file at the court with your application. The details will not then be disclosed to any person, except by order of the court.

##### Note 3

State the grounds on which the local authority is basing its application for a placement order. Note that a local authority **must** apply for a placement order if:

- the authority have placed the child for adoption, or are providing the child with accommodation; and
- no adoption agency is authorised to place the child for adoption; and
- the child has no parent or guardian, or the authority consider that the conditions in section 31(2) of the Children Act 1989 (conditions for making a care order) are met; and
- the authority are satisfied that the child ought to be placed for adoption; (Section 22(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002)

**or**

- the child is subject to a care order and the authority is not authorised to place the child for adoption, or an application for a care order has been made (and has not been disposed of), and
- the authority are satisfied that the child ought to be placed for adoption (section 22(2) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002)

The local authority **may** apply for a placement order if the child is subject to a care order and the authority are authorised to place the child for adoption under section 19 of the 2002 Act. (Section 22(3) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002)

The court cannot make a placement order in respect of a child unless –

- the child is subject to a care order; or
- the court is satisfied that the conditions in section 31(2) of the Children Act 1989 (conditions for making a care order) are met, or
- the child has no parent or guardian. (Section 21(2) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002)