

Application for an adoption order (Form A58)

Notes on completing the form

Important

Do not use this form if the child you want to adopt is habitually resident outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, or if you intend to apply for a Convention adoption order. Instead you should use Form A60 (Application for an adoption order (excluding a Convention adoption order) where the child has been brought into the UK for adoption) or Form A59 (Application for a Convention adoption order).

In these notes, any reference to a birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate or certificate of civil partnership 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. 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.

If you are attaching a statement of facts to your application (see note 22), please supply **two additional copies** of the statement. If you are attaching health reports (see note 24), please supply **two additional copies** of the reports.

Notes on the application form

Note 1

Enter the name of the child you are applying to adopt, surname last. 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 12).

Note 2

If you do not want your identity to be made known to the parents or guardians of the child you are intending to adopt, the court will issue you with a serial number. Any documents sent to the parents/guardians will show the serial number, not your personal details. If you are required to attend the same court hearing, the court will make arrangements to ensure that your identity is protected.

Part 1 About You

Note 3

If the name you have entered is different from your name as it is shown on any evidence of marriage or civil partnership you are sending with your application form (for example, because you have changed your name by deed), please attach a continuation sheet explaining the reason for the difference, and a copy of any supporting documents (such as the deed).