

Note 11

The court cannot dispense with the consent of any parent or guardian to the making of the placement order unless it is satisfied that:

- he or she cannot be found
- he or she is incapable of giving consent, or
- the welfare of the child requires his or her consent to be dispensed with.

If you are asking the court to dispense with the agreement of a parent or guardian, please state which of these three grounds applies. The court will also require from you a brief statement of facts setting out a summary of the history of the case and any other facts to satisfy the court that the grounds for your request apply. If a parent cannot be found, your statement of facts should give details of the steps taken to trace him/her.

You should attach your statement of facts, and two copies, to your application form. You should also attach any documents you are submitting in support of your statement of facts.

Note 12

Give the full name(s) of the parents, relatives and any significant others who currently have contact with the child. In each case, state their relationship to the child, whether contact is under a court order or by agreement, or pursuant to the duty of the local authority under the Children Act 1989 to promote contact. You should also give the nature, duration and frequency of contact (eg. whether supervised, by letter, monthly, weekly etc). For each contact order, the name of the court, date and case number should be entered at paragraph 15 (About other orders or proceedings that affect the child).

Note: A copy of your application will be sent to each parent or guardian of the child. If you do not want details of contact to be disclosed, you should apply to the court for directions.

Note 13

Give the name of each person who it is proposed will have contact with the child, their relationship to the child, and the nature, duration and frequency of the proposed contact. State in each case whether the proposed arrangements will apply both before and after the child is placed with any prospective adopters. If they will change when the child is placed, state what the differences will be.

Note: A copy of your application will be sent to each parent or guardian of the child. If you do not want details of contact to be disclosed, you should apply to the court for directions.

Special assistance or facilities for disability if you attend court

Note 14

If you need special assistance or special facilities for a disability or impairment, please set out your requirements in full. The court staff will need to know, for example, whether you want documents to be supplied in an alternative format, such as Braille or large print. They will also need to know about any specific requirements you may have on the day of the hearing, such as wheelchair access, a hearing loop, or a sign language interpreter.

The court staff will get in touch with you about your requirements. It is important that you make the court aware of all your needs. If you do not, the result may be that the hearing has to be adjourned.