1969. No. 303 **[C]**

ADOPTION

Adoption Societies Regulations

REGULATIONS, DATED 14TH NOVEMBER 1969, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, UNDER SECTION 32 OF THE ADOPTION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1967.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 32 of the Adoption Act (Northern Ireland) 1967(**a**), hereby makes the following Regulations: —

Citation and Commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Adoption Societies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 and shall come into operation on 1st December 1969.

Revocation

2. The Adoption Societies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1950(**b**) are hereby revoked.

Application for Registration

3.—(1) Every application for the registration of an adoption society under section 30 of the Adoption Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 shall be made in the form set out in Schedule 1 and shall give the information therein required to be given.

(2) The fee to be paid to the Ministry by an adoption society under the said section 30 in respect of registration shall be twenty shillings.

Change of Address

4. If a registered adoption society changes its address the society shall notify the Ministry of the change forthwith.

Annual Returns

5. Every registered adoption society shall, within twelve months of the date of registration and thereafter at least once in every period of twelve months, furnish to the Ministry—

(*a*) duly audited accounts and balance sheet;

(*b*) a return in the form set out in Schedule 2;

(*c*) a copy of the society's latest annual report.

Conduct of Negotiations with Parent or Guardian

6. Before an infant is placed at the disposition of a registered adoption society with a view to his being adopted, the society shall ensure that the parent or guardian who proposes so to place the infant is given a memorandum in the form set out in Schedule 3 and signs and returns to the society a certificate (which the society shall retain) in the form set out in Schedule 3, certifying that he has read and understood the memorandum.

(a) 1967. c. 35 (N.I.). (b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1950, No. 44.

Case Committees

7.—(1) Every registered adoption society shall appoint a case committee to consider any proposed placement of an infant for adoption.

(2) A case committee shall, so far as practicable, include one man and one woman and shall consist of not less than three persons each of whom should be competent to judge whether a particular placement would be in the interests of the infant and the committee shall have available the services of a registered medical practitioner to advise as may be necessary on any medical reports obtained under paragraphs (*b*) and (*c*) of Regulation 8.

Reports and Procedure before Placement

8. No infant shall be placed by or on behalf of a registered adoption society in the care and possession of a person proposing to adopt him until—

(*a*) the society has, so far as is reasonably practicable, ascertained the particulars set out in Schedule 4;

(*b*) the society has obtained reports on the health of the infant and the family of the infant in the appropriate forms set out in Schedule 5 or in forms to the like effect. A report on the health of the family of the infant may be dispensed with at the discretion of the society if the prospective adopter is the mother, father or a close relative of the infant;

(*c*) the society has obtained a report, and such additional medical information as may be necessary, from a fully-registered medical practitioner on the health of the prospective adopter in the appropriate forms set out in Schedule 6 or in forms to the like effect. A report on the health of the adopter may be dispensed with at the discretion of the society if the adopter is the mother or father of the infant. Where a report indicates that the adopter has a history of a mental or nervous disorder or where there appear to be marital problems of a psychological nature the society shall with the adopter's consent obtain psychiatric advice on his suitability for adopting the infant;

(*d*) the prospective adopter has been interviewed by or on behalf of the society's case committee and has been supplied with full details of any disability or abnormality in respect of the infant disclosed by medical examinations;

(*e*) the premises in Northern Ireland in which the prospective adopter intends that the infant will reside have been inspected by or on behalf of the society's case committee;

(*f*) the society's case committee have inquired of the welfare authority within whose area the premises are situated whether that authority has any reason to believe that the proposed placement might be detrimental to the infant, and where necessary have obtained the consent of the welfare authority under Part I of the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968(c); and

(*g*) the society's case committee, after considering all the information obtained, have approved of the infant's being so placed.

(c) 1968, c. 34 (N.I.).

Supervision

9.—(1) Every registered adoption society shall make adequate arrangements for the care and supervision of every infant placed by or on behalf of the society in the care and possession of a person proposing to adopt him, and in particular shall arrange that every such infant is visited by a representative of the society within one month of his placement and thereafter at least quarterly, until that person gives notice under sub-section (1)(*b*) of section 3 of the Adoption Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 of his intention to apply for an adoption order in respect of the infant, or until arrangements may be made for the supervision of the infant by the welfare authority for the area.

(2) After each visit the representative shall report to the case committee as to the welfare of the infant, and if the case committee so recommend, the society shall immediately remove the infant.

Medical Examinations

10. Where an infant has been placed by or on behalf of a registered adoption society in the care and possession of a person proposing to adopt him and—

(*a*) a serological test of the infant's blood for syphilis made after he attained the age of six weeks has not previously been made, the society shall make arrangements for such a test of his blood to be carried out by, and a report thereon obtained from, a fully-registered medical practitioner as soon as practicable after his placement and the infant has attained the age of six weeks; or

(*b*) the infant has not attained the age of two years and an examination of his blood for phenylalanine made after he attained the age of seven days or an examination of his urine for phenylpyruvic acid made after he attained the age of six weeks had not previously been made, the society shall make arrangements for such an examination to be carried out by, and a report thereon obtained from, a fully-registered medical practitioner as soon as practicable after his placement and the infant has attained the age of six weeks;

the society shall then give a copy of any such report to the person proposing to adopt the infant concerned.

Records and Documents

11. Every registered adoption society shall ensure that—

(*a*) none of its records or other documents relating to adoption negotiations are accessible to unauthorised persons; and

(*b*) all such records and documents are preserved for at least 25 years unless the Ministry otherwise directs.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 14th day of November 1969.

(L.S.) *J. H. Parkes,*
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE 1 Regulation 3

Application for Registration of Adoption Society

To the Ministry of Home Affairs. I/We the undersigned hereby apply to have the ..... Adoption Society registered under section 30 of the Adoption Act (Northern Ireland) 1967.

Particulars of the society:—

1. State date of establishment of society, and give particulars of any previous registration or application for registration .....

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2. State full postal address of the society's administrative centre

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3. Give addresses of any other offices of the society .....

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4. Give particulars of any activities of the society, other than those relating to the adoption of children; and state whether the society applies the whole of its profits (if any) or other income in promoting the objects for which it exists; and attach a copy of the instrument governing the society's activities and a statement of the society's accounts .....

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5. Give the full name, address and occupation of each member of the committee controlling the activities of the society; and state how the committee is appointed and how it controls the activities of the society; and attach a copy of the rules governing the constitution of the society.....

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6. Give the full name, address and occupation of each member of the society's case committee and his qualifications or experience for that purpose

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7. Give the full name, address and qualifications of the registered medical practitioner required under Regulation 7 .....

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8. Give the full name, address and occupation of every individual employed or proposed to be employed by the society, whether paid or unpaid, for the purpose of making any arrangements for the adoption of infants and his qualifications or experience for that purpose .....

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9. If any person taking part in the management or control of the society or any member of the society has been convicted of an offence in connection with the adoption of children, give his name and particulars of his offence

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I/We hereby declare that the above particulars are correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

Signature(s) .....

Address .....

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Position in the Society .....