Authority consider it desirable so to do, they may, with the concurrence of the Ministry, appoint an additional member, not being a member of the Fire Authority.

3. In carrying out the function conferred on them as aforesaid, the Fire Authority shall comply with any directions given from time to time by the Ministry.

4.—(1) In these Regulations :—

the expression " the Ministry " means the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland ;

the expression " the Fire Authority " means the Northern Ireland Fire Authority.

(2) In these Regulations, a reference to " civil defence " shall be construed as a reference to the forms of civil defence which may, from time to time, be recognised by the Ministry as appropriate to be undertaken by auxiliary firemen.

(3) The Interpretation Act, 1889, shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

5. These Regulations may be cited as the Civil Defence (Auxiliary Fire Services) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1950, and shall come into operation on the first day of November, 1950.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 1st day of November, 1950, in the presence of

(L.S.) *H. C. Montgomery,*
Assistant Secretary.

A draft of the above Regulations was approved by resolution of the House of Commons on the 24th day of October, 1950, and by resolution of the Senate on the 31st day of October, 1950.

COUNTY COURT

Adoption of Children Rules, p. 118
Crown Proceedings Rules, p. 136
Elections and Franchise Rules, p. 140

Adoption of Children (Northern Ireland) County Court Rules, 1950

1950. No. 123

WE, the undersigned members of the County Court Rules Committee appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland under subsection (3) of section two of the County Courts (Salaries and Rules) Act

(Northern Ireland), 1947, by virtue of the powers vested in us in this behalf, do hereby make the Rules hereinafter set forth as Rules to be in force in proceedings in the County Courts under the Adoption of Children Act (Northern Ireland), 1950, and do hereby certify the same under our hands and submit them to the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland accordingly.

(Signed) *Bernard J. Fox*
Isaac Copeland
Samuel Cumming
Charles Stewart
Geo. H. Pollock

I approve of these Rules, which shall come into force on the 19th day of June, 1950.

Dated the 6th day of June, 1950.

(Signed) *James Andrews*,
Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.

The scale of court fees in the Second Schedule has been fixed with the consent of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland.

In witness whereof the Official Seal of the Ministry has been affixed hereto this 13th day of June, 1950, in the presence of

(L.S.) *John I. Cook*,
Second Secretary.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1950.
COUNTY COURT RULES DATED 6TH DAY OF JUNE, 1950

1. These Rules may be cited as the Adoption of Children (Northern Ireland) County Court Rules, 1950.

2. An application for an interim order shall be made by petition to the Court, and shall be intituled in the matter of the Act and in the matter of the County Officers and Courts (Ireland) Act, 1877, and in the matter of the infant. The proposed adopter shall be the petitioner and the infant, the parents or guardian of the infant (if known), any person liable to contribute to the support of the infant, the welfare authority within whose area the petitioner resides and such other person or persons as the Judge may direct, shall be made respondents. The petition shall be in the Form No. 1 in the First Schedule hereto, with such variations as circumstances may require.

3. Every such petition shall be listed for hearing at an Equity Sessions of the Court, and shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Crown

and Peace at his office at least one month before such Court and shall be filed by him in his office.

4. The petitioner shall cause copies of the petition to be served upon —

(*a*) the parents or guardian of the infant (if known) ;
(*b*) the person having the actual custody of the infant, if different from (*a*) ;
(*c*) any person liable to contribute to the support of the infant ; and
(*d*) the welfare authority within whose area the petitioner resides.

Such copies shall be served at least one month before the date of the Equity Sessions at which the petition is to be heard, and if the parties do not attend, either in person or by their solicitors, such order may be made and proceedings taken as the Judge may consider just. The Judge may, in his discretion, dispense with service upon any of the parties, (except the welfare authority), and may, in his discretion, order the petition to be served upon any other person. If an interim order is granted the Judge may impose such terms and conditions as he may think fit in the interests of the infant, and such interim order shall be in the Form No. 3 in the First Schedule hereto.

5. Service of the petition under the last preceding Rule shall be effected by a Civil Bill Officer of the Court in the same manner as service of civil bills in Equity suits under Order VI Rule 4 of the County Courts (Ireland) Orders, 1890.

6. Every consent required under sub-section (3) of section two or paragraph (*a*) of sub-section (3) of section twenty-three of the Act shall be in writing and shall be in the Form No. 2 in the First Schedule hereto and shall be attested by one witness.

7. The petition shall be verified by affidavit, which shall exhibit all certificates and documents proper for proving the statements in the petition.

8. Upon being served with a copy of a petition, the welfare authority shall investigate as fully as possible all the circumstances of the infant and of the petitioner, and, in particular, shall include in its investigations the following questions :—

(*a*) whether the statements in the petition are true ;
(*b*) whether any person or body whatsoever has given or agreed to give or, whether directly or indirectly, has received or agreed to receive any payment or reward whatsoever in consideration of or in connection with the adoption of the infant ;
(*c*) whether the means and status of the petitioner are such as to enable him to maintain and bring up the infant suitably, and what right to or interest in property the infant has ;

(*d*) what insurance, if any, has been effected on the life of the infant ;

(*e*) whether it is desirable for the welfare of the infant that the Court, in making the interim order, should impose any terms or conditions in the interests of the infant.

9. When the investigations referred to in the preceding Rule have been completed, the welfare authority shall lodge with the Clerk of the Crown and Peace a report on the result of such investigations. Such report shall be lodged not later than 10 days before the date of hearing of the petition.

10. The Clerk of the Crown and Peace shall keep in a place of special security all petitions, consents and other documents relating to any application or order made under the Act, and such documents shall be confidential and shall be kept secret by the Clerk of the Crown and Peace.

11. No copy or duplicate of any order made by the Court shall be given to or served upon any person other than the petitioner and the Registrar-General for Northern Ireland unless the Judge shall otherwise direct.

12. The welfare authority, and any officer or agent of that body, shall regard all information obtained in the course of the investigation or otherwise in relation to the matter as confidential, and shall not divulge any part of it to any person save as may be necessary for the proper execution of its or his duty.

13. Evidence may be given orally or by affidavit, and all applications and proceedings to be heard by the Judge and to which these Rules relate shall be heard by him in his Chambers.

14. The Judge may refuse to make an interim order or an adoption order, or to grant an application for a licence, unless all parties, including the infant, attend before him, but he shall have power in his discretion to dispense with the attendance of any party, including the infant, and he may direct that any of the parties shall attend separately and apart from the others, or that any party, including the infant, shall be interviewed privately by himself or the Clerk of the Crown and Peace.

15. If, owing to special circumstances, any application appears to the Judge to be proper to be dealt with by the Supreme Court, he may, on that ground expressly, refuse to make an order.

16.—(1) If, owing to special circumstances, an application made under section twenty-three of the Act appears to be proper to be dealt with by the Lord Chief Justice, the Judge may thereupon direct that such application be transferred accordingly.

(2) Upon such direction being given, the Clerk of the Crown and Peace shall transmit the notice of application and all other documents

in his possession relating thereto to the Lord Chief Justice, and the application shall thereafter be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court.

17. If it shall appear that the petitioner has made any previous application in respect of the same infant, whether for an interim order or for an adoption order, which has been refused, (or for the discharge of an interim order which has been granted) the Judge shall not make an interim order or an adoption order unless he shall be satisfied that there has been a substantial change in the circumstances.

18.—(1) When an interim order has been granted in respect of any infant, the applicant shall, before the expiration of the period specified in the order, or within such extended period as the Judge may, in special circumstances, allow, lodge with the Clerk of the Crown and Peace a Notice of Application for an adoption order in respect of the infant or for the discharge of the interim order, as the case may be.

(2) The applicant shall serve a copy of such Notice upon the welfare authority in whose area he is for the time being resident, and such copy shall be served not less than one month before the date of the Equity Sessions at which the application is to be heard.

(3) The Notice shall be in the Form No. 4 or Form No. 5 in the First Schedule hereto, as the circumstances may require, and shall be lodged with the Clerk of the Crown and Peace at least 14 days before the date of the Equity Sessions at which the application is to be heard.

19. Upon the hearing of the application referred to in the preceding Rule, the Judge may deal with such application in accordance with the terms thereof or in any other manner which to him may appear just.

20. The Clerk of the Crown and Peace shall be the prescribed officer for the purpose of sub-section (8) of section four and sub-section (8) of section fourteen of the Act, and upon the making or amendment of an adoption order, the Clerk of the Crown and Peace shall forward a sealed copy thereof to the Registrar-General for Northern Ireland in a registered postal envelope marked " Confidential ". Such adoption order shall be in the Form No. 6 in the First Schedule hereto.

21. If an application for the discharge of an interim order is granted, such discharge shall be in the Form No. 7 in the First Schedule hereto.

22.—(1) An application under sub-section (3) of section twenty-three of the Act shall be heard by the Judge at an Equity Sessions of the Court.

(2) A Notice of any such application shall be in the Form No. 8 in the First Schedule hereto, and a copy of such Notice shall be sent by registered post to every person or body who is a parent or guardian of the infant in question, or who has the actual custody of the infant, or who is liable to contribute to the support of the infant. Such copy