

Good Practice in Action 005
**Legal Resources for Counsellors
and Psychotherapists**

Counselling and
Psychotherapy in the
Context of Adoption
Law in Northern Ireland
and Wales

bacp

British Association for
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Updated September 2016

Good Practice in Action 005: *Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales* is published by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, BACP House, 15 St John's Business Park, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4HB.

t: 01455 883300 f: 01455 550243 e: bacp@bacp.co.uk w: www.bacp.co.uk

BACP is the largest professional organisation for counselling and psychotherapy in the UK, is a company limited by guarantee 2175320 in England and Wales, and a registered charity, 298361.

Copyright © 2016 British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Permission is granted to reproduce for personal and educational use only. Commercial copying, hiring and lending are prohibited.

Design by Steers McGillan Eves.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales

Contents

Context	4
Using the Legal Resources	4
Introduction	5
1 What is adoption?	6
2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services	7
3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services	9
4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency	13
5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards	14
6 The multi-way contract	16
7 Adoption support agency liaison role	17
8 Managing contact in adoption	18
9 Funding	19
10 Considerations when working with adoption issues	20
About the author	22
References and further reading	22
Contacts	26

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

Context

This document is one of a suite of resources prepared by BACP to enable members to engage with the current BACP *Ethical Framework* in respect of adoption law in Northern Ireland and Wales.

Using the Legal Resources

The *Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions* establishes a contractual commitment between BACP members and BACP. These legal resources are not contractually binding on members, but support good practice by offering general information on principles and policy applicable at the time of publication.

The legal resources should not be used to constitute legal advice in specific cases, nor are they sufficient on their own to resolve legal issues arising in practice. As practice issues and dilemmas arising from work with clients are often complex, we strongly recommend consulting your supervisor, and also, wherever necessary, a suitably qualified practitioner or lawyer. Some professional insurers will provide legal advice as part of their service.

Specific issues in practice will vary depending on clients, particular models of working, the context of the work and the kind of therapeutic intervention provided. Please be alert for any changes that may affect your practice, as organisations and agencies may change their practice and policies. References in this document were up to date at the time of writing but there may be changes to the law, government departments, websites and web addresses, and it is important for you to keep informed of any changes that may affect your practice.

In this resource, the word 'therapist' is used to mean specifically counsellors and psychotherapists and 'therapy' to mean specifically counselling and psychotherapy.

The terms 'practitioner' and 'counselling related services' are used generically in a wider sense, to include the practice of counselling, psychotherapy, coaching and pastoral care.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales

Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to all those who have helped with information from their experience and local knowledge, and especially to the staff of the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF). In particular, thanks to Alexandra Conroy Harris and Leonie Jordan, Legal Consultants at BAAF London; Sarah Coldrick from BAAF Cymru; Priscilla McLoughlin from BAAF in Northern Ireland; and Rhona Pollock from BAAF Scotland.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

Introduction

BACP has published Good Practice in Action Legal Resource 003: Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in England. Although some provisions of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 apply to other jurisdictions, there are additional statutory provisions and regulations made for adoption services and adoption support for other regions in the UK. For this reason, BACP has produced this additional paper on counselling in relation to adoption law as it applies specifically in Northern Ireland and Wales.

The legal system and practice in Scotland is so radically different that it merits separate treatment, and is covered in Good Practice in Action 025. Similarly, this document does not cover the relevant law in the Republic of Ireland, which also has separate law and practice. For information about counselling and adoption support services in the Republic of Ireland, please contact the Department of Health and Children or the Ombudsman for Children. For Scotland, information resources including BAAF Scotland, Scottish Administration's Children's Reporters, and government agencies are included at the end of this document.

The provision of counselling and psychotherapy in the context of current adoption law and guidance may present therapists with a range of legal and ethical considerations. This paper addresses a number of commonly raised practice issues in relation to counselling and adoption law. The paper explores a number of questions that are frequently asked in practice and, where the answer is not precise or completely clear, it presents relevant information on the issues to enable you to discuss them and think through the ethical and legal dilemmas, whether in personal reflection or in supervision.

Sometimes excellent advice and help are available from literature and local resources. At the end of this paper are lists of legislation, references and sources of further information, advice and practical help. The resource list is not exhaustive – there may be local services available, so it may be helpful to ask your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, the social care department of your local authority, the Northern Ireland Guardian ad Litem Agency or CAF/CASS Cymru for additional potential resources in your region. Useful contact details for these are set out at the end of this paper.

For simplicity, in the context of adoption work, counselling, psychotherapy and other forms of psychological help and support are collectively referred to in this paper as 'therapy.' Legal terms related to adoption are explained in the body of the text. The general principles that apply to Northern Ireland and Wales are all set out in the text below. Specific law and practice relevant for each region is separately stated.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

1 What is adoption?

Adoption means the creation of a new and permanent legal relationship between a child and his or her adoptive family. A court order for adoption legally severs all the former rights and legal ties between the adopted child and his or her birth family, and ends the legal rights and duties of all birth parents and all those who may previously have held parental responsibility for the child. The adopted child no longer has any automatic inheritance rights from their birth family, but may be named as a beneficiary in a will.

The legal process of placement and adoption may be emotionally challenging for children, their birth family and adopters. There may be anxious periods of waiting for agencies to make decisions and for court hearings. Some adoptions present emotional and practical challenges, for example the need to resolve questions of post-adoption contact between an adopted child and their birth family. Adoption support services may be asked to assist in this and other aspects of the welfare of the child, both before and after adoption. For a user-friendly explanation of adoption law as it applies generally in the UK (without taking into account all regional variations), see the comprehensive encyclopaedia *Children Law and Practice* (Hershman and McFarlane, 2015).

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales

bacp

British Association for
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

The legal framework for domestic adoption in England and Wales and for inter-country adoption was modernised and reformed by the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the Children and Adoption Act 2006.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, the sources of statute law are: the Acts of the UK Parliament and its subsidiary legislation; the Acts of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly and Orders in Council and its subsidiary legislation; European Community law, and international treaties. Child law is governed by The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995; The Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and The Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989; The Adoption (Intercountry Aspects) Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, and other legislation.

In Northern Ireland, the adoption law at present remains similar to that which applied in England before 2006. Northern Ireland is currently in the process of drafting new adoption legislation and the consultation process started in 2013 (see also Long, 2013: 50). Section 106 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 links Northern Irish law with that of England and Wales, providing that:

- i) a Northern Irish adoption order or an order under Article 26 of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (S.I. 1987/2203 (N.I. 22)) (interim orders) has effect in England and Wales as it has in Northern Ireland
- ii) an order made under Article 17 or 18 of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (freeing orders), or the variation or revocation of such an order under Article 20 or 21 of that Order, has effect in England and Wales as it has in Northern Ireland
- iii) any person who:
 - a) contravenes Article 28(1) or (2) of the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (removal where adoption agreed etc.), or
 - b) contravenes Article 29(1) or (2) of that Order (removal where applicant provided home)

is guilty of an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or both.

Orders made under Article 30 of that Order (order to return or not to remove child) are to have effect in England and Wales as if they were orders of the High Court under section 41 of the [Adoption and Children Act 2002].

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

Wales

In Wales, the Adoption and Children Act 2002 applies as in England, but it has its own regulatory framework for adoption, which is found in the Adoption Agencies (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and 2014, and its accompanying Statutory Guidance 2006. The regulations cover the duties of an adoption agency where it is considering the adoption of a child, the approval of prospective adopters and the proposed placement of a child with prospective adopters.

Local authorities

Local authorities have a general duty to provide assistance to 'a child in need' for England and Wales (see Section 17 and Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989). For Northern Ireland, see The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. A 'child in need' includes any child who is disabled or any child whose health or development may be impaired, or who is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development, without the provision of appropriate services for the child or the family for the benefit of the child, and so may include an adopted child, or a sibling of an adopted child.

Local authorities also have a statutory duty to provide a range of post-adoption support services for adopting families and for children being placed for adoption, including financial support, advice and information, therapeutic services for adopted children, support groups for both children and parents, and support to maintain the relationship between children and their birth parents. Some of these adoption support services may be provided by local authorities, or by independent agencies and practitioners commissioned by local authorities to undertake any necessary work.

Independent specialist agencies and therapists in private practice may also provide privately-funded work for parents, children and adoptive families. In Wales, they may need to register as 'adoption support agencies' (see section 3 of this paper) with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

Adoption support services are the range of services that are provided by adoption support agencies.

There is a wealth of information about adoption-related issues and helpful publications on the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) website at www.baaf.org.uk. Regional branches of BAAF operate in Wales and Northern Ireland (as well as in Scotland). Contact details are provided at the end of this resource.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, adoption support services are provided by the relevant Health and Social Care Trust, operating under The Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989. The Adoption Regional Policy and Procedures 2010 outlines the key elements of an adoption support service and the requirement of adoption agencies to support those affected by adoption. For a full description of the system see *Adopting Best Care* (DHSSPS, 2002).

Under the The Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989, when an agency is considering adoption for a child, it shall either provide a counselling service for the child, parents or guardian or be satisfied that an adoption agency has done so (Regulation 7 (a) and (b)). Here, again, it seems that counselling would have a clear link to the adoption.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

Wales

In Wales, the Adoption and Children Act 2002 is implemented by regulations made by the Welsh Assembly: that is, the Adoption Support Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Adoption Support Services (Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2005 and Statutory Guidance 2006.

Under the Adoption Support Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005, applications for registration as an adoption support agency must be made by an incorporated body.

There is little specific regional guidance on the definition of adoption support services but we can refer to Section 2(6) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, in which the term 'adoption support services' is defined (solely in the context of adoption) as including 'a) counselling, advice and information and b) any other services prescribed by regulations, in relation to adoption'.

The key here in the definition is the direct link with adoption: under Regulation 2 of the Adoption Support Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005, 'adoption support services' include:

a) assistance to adoptive parents, adoptive children, and related persons in relation to arrangements for contact between an adoptive child and a natural parent or a related person of the adoptive child

b) services that may be provided in relation to the therapeutic needs of the child in relation to that adoption; assistance for the purpose of ensuring the continuance of the relationship between the child and adoptive parent, including training for adoptive parents for the purpose of meeting any special needs of the child arising from that adoption

c) assistance where disruption in an adoption arrangement or placement has occurred or is in danger of occurring, including:

i) mediation and

ii) organising and running meetings to discuss disruptions in adoptions or placements

d) assistance to adopted persons who have attained the age of 18 in obtaining information in relation to their adoption or facilitating contact between such persons and their relatives

e) assistance to relatives of adopted persons who have attained the age of 18 in obtaining information in relation to that adoption or facilitating contact between such persons and the adopted person.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context	
Using the Legal Resources	
Introduction	
1 What is adoption?	Under paragraph (1) of Regulation 15, an (adoption support) agency must provide written information about the availability of counselling to any person who makes a request for adoption support services under Regulations 2(2)(e) or (f), or b) is the subject of such an application and is considering whether to consent to disclosure of information about him or her to the person requesting it.
2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services	The information provided under paragraph (1) must include: a) descriptions of persons offering counselling, and b) fees that may be charged by such persons.
3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services	If a person mentioned in paragraph (1) requests that counselling be provided for him or her, the adoption support agency must secure the provision of counselling services for that person. The agency may provide such counselling services itself or make arrangements with either: a) another registered provider of adoption support services/or b) a person who provides such services under contract to a registered provider.
4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency	Where the subject of an application chooses not to avail himself or herself of a counselling service for which a fee is payable, the adoption support agency must nevertheless provide support and assistance to the subject in making a decision.
5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards	In Wales, the regulator for social care and social services, including adoption support agencies and adoption support services, is the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) (see their website at http://ccsiw.org.uk). For assessment details, also see the website www.cis-assessment.co.uk .
6 The multi-way contract	
7 Adoption support agency liaison role	
8 Managing contact in adoption	There are proposed changes to create a new model of care and support in Wales, and also towards moving adoption services in Wales to regional consortia of councils, allowing the courts to give social workers and police greater rights of access in suspected abuse cases and encouraging greater inter-agency co-operation. For news on this, see the online magazine www.communitycare.co.uk , and keep an eye on the Welsh Government website http://wales.gov.uk for new law and practice developments, including the progress of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill, for which public consultations have ended.
9 Funding	
10 Considerations when working with adoption issues	
About the author	
References and further reading	Education and training inspections are carried out by Estyn (see www.estyn.gov.uk).
Contacts	

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

In Wales you can also seek advice and help on adoption agencies and related services from BAAF Cymru (see www.baaf.org.uk/wales/cymraeg). Support services are regulated by the Adoption Support Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Adoption Support Services (Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2005, and Statutory Guidance 2006.

Under the Adoption: National Minimum Standards (July 2014), issued by the Department for Education (DfE) under the Care Standards Act 2000, specific services that are identified as being needed prior to placement of a child for adoption should be available:

‘Children and adults affected by adoption receive an assessment of their adoption support needs.’

Service users confirm that the adoption support service provided met or are meeting their assessed needs.’

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

In Northern Ireland and Wales, the safest option for organisations and practitioners considering registering as an adoption agency is always to check their specific circumstances and plans with their local inspectorate and seek legal advice to ascertain whether registration is appropriate and/or required by law.

Practitioners who work with children or adults where the focus of the counselling is directly related to adoption are advised to seek legal advice and/or check with their local inspectorate to determine whether there are any conditions they are required to fulfil before they are permitted by law to provide the counselling services they wish to offer.

In relation to the inspection of adoption agencies, although some guidance is available for England, there seems to be little specific guidance at present for Northern Ireland and Wales. Adoption and safeguarding law and guidance are constantly developing, so keep an eye on all the relevant websites for new regional guidance and future changes.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

Registration as an adoption agency requires compliance with a considerable amount of paperwork before providing services. Strict inspections must also be passed, in which administration, paperwork, safety systems, insurance, professional practice, premises and procedures are assessed.

Wales

In Wales, see the Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005 as amended by the Adoption Agencies (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 and the Adoption Agencies (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, and the Statutory Guidance 2006. For support services, the Adoption Agencies (Support) Services Regulations 2005, the Adoption Support Services (Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Statutory Guidance 2006 apply.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, see the Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, the Voluntary Adoption Agency Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, and the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality Improvement and Regulations) Order 2003, which together govern the provision of services by voluntary adoption agencies in Northern Ireland. To provide adoption support services, therapists would have to register their business (which, under Regulation 3, must be an incorporated body) with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) by applying to the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

The registered provider of the agency must work with the manager of the agency to prepare a statement of purpose, which should contain statements as to:

- the overall aims and objectives of the agency
- the name and address of the registered provider, the responsible individual and the manager
- the relevant qualifications and experience of the manager and staff (including details of registration with any relevant professional regulatory body)
- the organisational structure of the agency
- monitoring systems, and
- complaints procedures.

All voluntary adoption agencies registered in Northern Ireland are regulated and inspected by the RQIA.

Other professional standards

Therapists working with or for adoption support agencies must also comply with their own professional practice guidance, for example, the BACP's current *Ethical Framework* or *UKCP Professional Occupational Standards* (UKCP, 2010). In cases of an alleged breach of duty of care or negligence, accepted professional standards may be taken into account by the courts as a measure of competence. Adoption support agencies are working with children and families and so, as part of their compliance with government registration, they must also demonstrate that they follow all relevant government guidance operating in the region.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales

Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

6 The multi-way contract

An agency or an individual therapist may be commissioned by a local authority to assist an adoptive family. The commissioning contract may therefore involve the local authority, the adoptive parents and the adopted child. A therapist employed by an adoption agency or commissioned by the agency to provide services for a child may, for example, enter into a therapeutic contract with the agency, the child's parents and/or the adoptive family and the child – in other words, a multi-way therapeutic contract.

In multi-way contracts, it is important to address any necessary boundaries in sharing information and any other issues that might impact on one of the parties to the contract. Therapists should give consideration to the ability of the child to enter into a therapeutic contract. The age and maturity of the child are relevant, and it may be necessary to identify those who have parental responsibility for the child. For discussion of mental capacity to consent for adults and children, see Mitchels and Bond (2010), Chapter 8.

Consent

Children aged 16–18: Under s.8(1) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 and article 4 of the Age of Majority Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, a child of age 16 or over with mental capacity may make his or her own medical decisions and therefore they may also make therapeutic contracts.

Children under 16: Children who are under the age of 16 may be competent to make certain decisions (and therefore to enter into a therapeutic contract). This principle of law was settled by the House of Lords in the leading case of *Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and Another* [1986] 1 AC 1212. See also s.2(1). Consent for a therapeutic contract may be given for a young child under the age of 16 who is not 'Gillick competent' by a person with parental responsibility for the child or an order of the High Court.

There may be situations in which therapeutic treatment is considered necessary but the child or those with parental responsibility refuse. If there is any issue about the competence of a child to make an informed decision, the matter can, if necessary, be referred to those with parental responsibility for the child and/or for expert opinion and/or to the High Court. In England and Wales, in situations where there is a dispute between two or more people with parental responsibility for the child, the Family Court has the power to make a specific issue order under s.8 and s.10 of the Children Act 1989, where it is in the best interests of the child. The High Court may also make orders under its inherent jurisdiction in relation to a child, for example to make directions of lawfulness in relation to medical or psychiatric treatment. In Northern Ireland, the courts may make orders under article 8 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

In adoption support work, liaison between the agency and the social services department of the local authority is likely to be frequent. It is sometimes difficult to get a good history from social services in relation to the child, and the necessary consents are not always forthcoming for disclosure. As a result, the therapist (and the adoptive family) may not know the child's full history or experiences, or the information provided may not always be accurate.

The adoption support agency may be invited to provide feedback on work that has been done. Therapists may be invited to attend six-monthly statutory reviews for new adoptions. Reports will necessitate client consent for disclosures. The limits of confidentiality must be negotiated and agreed before commencing therapeutic work.

The adoptive family may think about their situation differently from the way the courts or social services see it. For example, social services may be driven by perceived pressures and budget constraints to finalise adoption placements quickly, and sometimes when adoption placements suffer difficulties, adoptive parents may express the feeling that they were pushed too quickly into adoption when what they needed was sufficient time to adapt. Some adopters have felt unable to say to social services or adoption agencies that they were not quite ready to make the necessary commitment to permanence, for fear of criticism or even fear of losing the potential adoptive placement. From the therapy point of view, the process of establishing the child's security within their new family requires time, patience, commitment and support.

Social services may work in a practical, systematic, 'tick box' way, while for the adoptive parents adoption is an emotional experience. This can cause resentment in adoptive parents who don't feel understood, and the role of the therapist in adoption support may include that of 'translator' between the adoptive family and social services, to help mutual understanding.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

8 Managing contact in adoption

An Adoption Order may in principle contain provisions regarding post-adoption contact between the adopted child and his or her birth parents. However, we are advised that it is now incredibly rare that an Adoption Order will include any formal court directions about contact – it is far more usual for adopters to agree a contact plan at the time of adoption, on the basis that the adopters are entrusted with the child's life and so might also be trusted to make the best decisions around contact. Post-adoption family direct contact is more usual with the adopted child's grandparents or siblings.

Agreeing a contact plan may be stressful to negotiate for all the parties and possibly also for the child concerned. If contact issues prove to be unduly stressful, they may threaten to cause disruption to the adoptive placement. Therapists providing adoption support need to understand attachment and separation issues, and perhaps to support the child's birth parents and siblings through the grieving process for a child who is being adopted away. Adopted children and siblings may grieve for the loss of their former family or families. Counselling services (pre- or post-adoption) may support birth parents, adoptive parents and the child to manage contact in the best way possible for the welfare of the child.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales

Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

9 Funding

Getting payment for adoption support services is not always easy. Local authority children's care and social care departments have a statutory duty to provide a range of post-adoption support services, including financial support. The general duty of local authorities to provide assistance for children in need under Section 17 and Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989 or article 8 and Schedule 2 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 may include therapeutic support and/or also allow for financial assistance, but most authorities are unlikely to provide financial assistance for post-adoption support under this section unless other avenues are unproductive. Where funding is sought from the local authority, the therapist may need to conduct an initial assessment and provide an estimate of their costs in order to obtain the necessary funding.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

Assessment of the family situation and needs

Allow time for a thorough assessment of both child and adoptive parents, in order to understand their real needs, assess any risks, and plan the therapeutic process. There may be cause for concern that the needs of the adoptive family may not have been fully explored or addressed before the court order is made for adoption. An incompatibility might arise after adoption between the needs of the adopted child and their adoptive family: for example, the family may need stability and a peaceful environment in which to function, while the child needs space and opportunity to test acceptance, and to explore and perhaps challenge boundaries. This may place strain on family systems and relationships.

Training and information for adoptive families

New adoptive parents are not necessarily psychologically minded or experienced with children and they may need to be taught how to become psychologically aware and sensitive so that they can recognise when their child needs help. They may, for example, react to the child's boundary challenges with strict discipline, while not understanding that the child's behaviour may be an expression of feelings of insecurity or a need for attention or affection.

Understanding and accepting the child's history

Adopted children may bring with them a great deal of history, which may have been traumatic and which has to be understood and accepted by their new parents. Their past is part of their lives. Adoptive parents may be shocked to learn about their child's history and may have to cope with having their idealism about childhood shattered.

Historical issues for the child may go unrecognised and could affect the child's relationship with their adoptive parents. For example, a child who has experienced long-term emotional, sexual or physical abuse may have learned patterns of response to domestic situations that are substantially different from those of a child of the adoptive family who has not experienced abuse. Memories, for example of past relationships or past abuse, may arise after adoption. The adoptive family may not make links with the child's past in new (perhaps unexpected) behaviours arising from or triggered by memories that are surfacing for the child. New parents may also be learning the skills of parenting, as well as adapting to the mix of emotions and memories that the new adoptive child brings with them.

In writing the comments above I am indebted to Dr Jo North for ideas derived from her useful guidance for adopters and foster carers (North, 2010), and see also *Mindful Therapeutic Childcare* (North, 2014).

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

Supporting adoptive families

Adoptive parents who do not understand the child's distress may end up becoming part of the problem for the child, instead of being part of the solution. The role of the therapist is often educative and supportive of both child and family, facilitating mutual understanding and adjustment. Where an adopted child presents difficult behaviours, adoptive parents may feel resentful, and feel that they are carrying a burden that has been dumped on them by the local authority. This may be exacerbated if there is a lack of information about the child's past, leading to unexpected behaviours triggered by shadows of the past, or in cases where there is a lack of funding support for resources for the adoptive family. The therapist may have to liaise with the local authority or adoption agency in order to improve mutual understanding and effective communication.

For practical information on supporting adoptees and adoptive families, see the following websites, all of which are useful sources:

Adoption UK: www.adoptionuk.org

BAAF: <http://corambaaf.org.uk/info/advice>

St Andrews Children's Society Ltd: Adoption and fostering in Scotland:

Barnardo's Fostering and Adoption Agency: www.barnardos.org.uk

NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk

UK Government on adoption: www.gov.uk/child-adoption

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

About the author

Content for this resource was authored by Dr Barbara Mitchels, PhD, LL.B, BACP Registered (Snr Accred), who is a Fellow of BACP and a retired solicitor. She is a psychotherapist and Director of Watershed Counselling Services in Devon. Barbara runs CPD workshops around the UK and writes resource books for therapists – see her website at www.therapylaw.co.uk. It was reviewed September 2016 by Katherine Cereghino from Brethertons.

References and further reading

DHSSPS (2002) *Adopting best care: inspection of statutory adoption services in Northern Ireland*. Belfast: DHSSPS. Available at: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/adoptsummary.pdf (accessed 6 October 2014).

Hershman, D. McFarlane, D. (2015) *Children law and practice*. Bristol: Family Law.

Long, M. (2013) *Child care law in Northern Ireland*. London: BAAF.

Mitchels, B. Bond, T. (2011) *Legal issues across counselling and psychotherapy settings*. London: BACP/Sage.

Mitchels, B. Bond, T. (2010) *Standards and ethics for counselling in action* (5th edition). London: Sage

North, J. (2010) *How to think about caring for a child with difficult behaviour*. Vermont: Watershed Publishing (available from David.wright16@virgin.net).

North, J. (2014) *Mindful therapeutic care for children*. London: Jessica Kingsley.

UK Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) (2010) *UKCP professional occupational standards* (UKCP POS). London: UKCP. Available at: www.psychotherapy.org.uk/UKCP_Documents/standards_and_guidance/41_ukcp_professional_occupational_standards.pdf (accessed 3 October 2014).

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

Further reading

Long, M. (2004) *The law of children in Northern Ireland: the annotated legislation*. Belfast: SLS Legal Publications (NI).

Long, M. Loughran, G. (2002) *The law of adoption in Northern Ireland: the annotated legislation*. Belfast: SLS Legal Publications (NI).

Department for Education (2014) *Adoption: national minimum standards*. London: Department for Education. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-national-minimum-standards> (accessed 15 July 2015).

HM Government (2015) *Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers*. Norwich: the Stationery Office. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice> (accessed 23 July 2015)

HM Government (2015) *Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*. Norwich: The Stationery Office. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Hodson, D. (2012) *The international family law practice*. Bristol: Family Law.

McDonald, A. (2011) *The rights of the child: law and practice*. Bristol: Family Law.

The Children Order Advisory Committee (2010) *Best practice guidance* (2nd edition). London: the Stationery Office. Available at http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/Publications/Family_Law_and_Childcare_Literature/Documents/p_COAC_Best-Practice-Guide/COAC-Best-Practice-Guidance.pdf (accessed 15 July 2015). Belfast: Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service.

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (2012) *Guide to case management in private law proceedings*. Belfast: Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. Available at http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/Publications/Family_Law_and_Childcare_Literature/Documents/p_fam_guide_private_law/p_fam_Case-Management-Private-Law-Guide.pdf (accessed 15 July 2015).

Ofsted (2014, updated 2015) *Inspection of adoption support agencies: framework for inspection from 1 April 2015*. Manchester: Ofsted.

Ofsted (2015) *Introduction to adoption support agencies: a children's social care guide to registration*. Manchester: Ofsted.

Legislation and guidance on adoption and adoption support services

The full text of all legislation is available at www.legislation.gov.uk. Search the name of the statute, or the word 'adoption' to find current adoption-related legislation for England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

England

(For a general list of adoption legislation, see www.gov.uk)

Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 (SI No. 985)

Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005

Adoption and Children Act 2002

Adoption and Children Act 2002 Statutory Guidance

Adoption Support Agencies (England) and Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous
Amendments) Regulations 2005

Adoption Support Agencies (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

Adoption Support Services Regulations 2005

Care Standards Act 2000

Care Standards Act 2000 (Establishments and Agencies) (Miscellaneous
Amendments) Regulations 2002

Care Standards Act 2000 (Registration) (England) Regulations 2010

Children Act 1989

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and
Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) Regulations 2007

Human Rights Act 1998

Adoption: national minimum standards (2014), available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-national-minimum-standards> (accessed 1
October 2014).

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ratified by UK in 1991)

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ratified by UK 2009)

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

Northern Ireland

Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 (S.I. 1987/2203 (N.I. 22))

Adoption Regional Policy and Procedures 2010

Family Law Reform Act 1969 and article 4 of the Age of Majority Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, 26

Health and Personal Social Services (Quality Improvement and Regulations) Order 2003

Voluntary Adoption Agency Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010

Scotland

Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No 154)

Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2011 (No 1740)

Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2011 (No 1740)

Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010 (No 2469)

Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Provisions No 1) Order 2009 (No 2233)

Children (Scotland) Act 1995

Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

National Care Standards (2010) Scotland

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (Scottish Government, 2010)

Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968

Wales

Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005

Adoption Agencies (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

Adoption Agencies (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2009

Adoption Support Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005

Adoption Support Services (Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2005

Statutory Guidance 2006.

Adoption Support Services (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (No 985)

Adoption Agencies (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

Adoption Support Services and Special Guardianship (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (No 2091. Wales 206)

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

Contacts

Adoption UK: www.adoptionuk.org

Barnardo's Fostering and Adoption Agency: www.barnardos.org

Be My Parent: www.bemyparent.org.uk. A British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) service for agencies and families.

British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF): www.baaf.org.uk

Care Quality Commission (CQC): www.cqc.org.uk

Children and Families Advisory Service (CAFCASS): www.cafcass.gov.uk

Children and Families Advisory Service Wales (CAFCASS Cymru). English language website: www.wales.gov.uk/cafcasscymru/home/?lang=en

Department for Education, Castle View House East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ. Website: www.gov.org Tel: 0870 000 2288.

NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk

Ofsted, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester M1 2WD. Tel: 0300 123 1231; Textphone: 0161 618 8524; Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk ;

Website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. To receive regular email alerts about new Ofsted publications, including reports, please visit their website and go to 'Subscribe'.

For general government guidance, see www.gov.uk/child-adoption.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Courts Service (www.courtsni.gov.uk). Belfast: (Laganside Courts), Oxford Street, Belfast, BT1 3LL. Tel: 0300 200 7812; Fax: 028 9041 2283; Email: csmlaganside@courtsni.gov.uk (Old Townhall Building), 80 Victoria Street, Belfast BT1 3GL; Tel: 0300 200 7812; Fax: 028 9072 4555; Email: BelfastFamily&Domestic@courtsni.gov.uk

The Northern Ireland Guardian ad Litem Agency: www.nigala.hscni.net. Centre House, 79 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JE. Tel: 028 90 316550; Fax: 028 90 319811; Text: 028 90 329674. Spencer House, 14-22 Spencer Road, L' Derry BT47 6QA. Tel: 028 71 329909; Fax: 028 71 329908; Text: 028 71 343461. Dobbin Centre, Dobbin Street Lane, Armagh BT61 7QL. Tel: 028 37 528840; Fax: 028 37 518357; Text: 028 37 518640

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of adoption, adoption support agencies and adoption support services

3 What is meant by adoption support agencies and adoption support services

4 Provision of counselling and registration as an adoption support agency

5 Registration process, inspection, enforcement and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when working with adoption issues

About the author

References and further reading

Contacts

Scotland

Adoption UK (Scotland): www.adoptionuk.org/nations/scotland

Barnardo's Scotland Adoption: www.barnardos.org.uk

British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) in Scotland: www.baaf.org.uk/scotland

Children's Hearings Scotland, Area 2/1/1 Ladywell House, Ladywell Road, Edinburgh EH12 7TB. Tel: 0131 244 3696; Fax: 0131 244 4745; Website: www.chscotland.gov.uk

Contact Law (for experienced adoption lawyers): www.contactlaw.co.uk/adoption

Good Practice in Action 025: *Counselling and psychotherapy in the context of Adoption Law in Scotland*

National Archives of Scotland Adoption Records: www.nas.gov.uk/guides/adoptions.asp

National Care Standards (Scotland) – Adoption Agencies: www.nationalcarestandards.org/121.html

Scotland's Adoption Register: www.scotlandsadoptionregister.org.uk

Scottish Adoption: www.scottishadoption.org

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Ochil House, Springkerse Business Park, Stirling, FK7 7XE. Tel: 0300 200 1555; Website: www.scra.gov.uk

St Andrew's Children's Society: www.standrews-children.org.uk

Wales

Adopt Wales: www.adopt-wales.co.uk

British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) in Wales: www.baaf.org.uk/wales

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) Cymru: <http://wales.gov.uk/cafcasscymru/home/?lang=en>

Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) Cymru: irmcymru.org.uk

North Wales Adoption Service: www.northwalesadoption.gov.uk

South East Wales Adoption Service (Blaenau Gwent): www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/3122.asp

St David's Children Society: www.adoptionwales.org

Barnardo's (fostering and adoption in Wales): www.barnardos.org.uk

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales



Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts

Republic of Ireland

Department of Health and Children (An Roinn Slainte),
Hawkins House, Hawkins Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.
Tel: 01 635 4000

Ombudsman for Children, Millennium House,
52–56 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.
Tel: 01 865 6800
Fax: 01 874 7333
Email: oco@oco.ie
Website: www.oco.ie

Counselling and Psychotherapy in the Context of Adoption Law in Northern Ireland and Wales

bacp

British Association for
Counselling & Psychotherapy

Context

Using the Legal
Resources

Introduction

1 What is adoption?

2 Legal context of
adoption, adoption
support agencies and
adoption support services

3 What is meant by
adoption support
agencies and adoption
support services

4 Provision of counselling
and registration as an
adoption support agency

5 Registration process,
inspection, enforcement
and standards

6 The multi-way contract

7 Adoption support
agency liaison role

8 Managing contact in
adoption

9 Funding

10 Considerations when
working with adoption
issues

About the author

References and
further reading

Contacts