
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1987 No. 2203

The Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

PART II

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADOPTION

Welfare of children

Duty to promote welfare of child

9. In deciding on any course of action in relation to the adoption of a child, a court or adoption agency shall regard the welfare of the child as the most important consideration and shall—

- (a) have regard to all the circumstances, full consideration being given to—
 - (i) the need to be satisfied that adoption, or adoption by a particular person or persons, will be in the best interests of the child; and
 - (ii) the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child throughout his childhood; and
 - (iii) the importance of providing the child with a stable and harmonious home; and
- (b) so far as practicable, first ascertain the wishes and feelings of the child regarding the decision and give due consideration to them, having regard to his age and understanding.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** [Art. 9](#) applied (with modifications) (6.4.2010) by [Human Fertilisation and Embryology \(Parental Orders\) Regulations 2010 \(S.I. 2010/985\)](#), reg. 3, [Sch. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

The Adoption (Northern Ireland) Order 1987, Cross Heading: Welfare of children is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 March 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 6(2) words inserted by [S.I. 2019/1514 reg. 29\(4\)](#)
- art. 60(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 4 para. 6\(a\)](#)