

Consent to the placement of my child for adoption with identified prospective adopters

Section 19 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002

Name of child.....

Before signing this form you are advised to seek legal advice about consenting to placement for adoption and the effect on your parental rights. Publicly funded legal advice may be available from the Civil Legal Aid. You can get information about this or find a solicitor through CLA Direct on www.gov.uk/legal-aid

Name and address of the adoption agency in the matter:

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I consent to _____ (my child), who is the child to whom the attached certified copy of the entry in the Register of Live Births relates, being placed for adoption with

*[_____ (the named prospective adopter(s))]

*[the prospective adopter(s) identified as _____]
(*complete as appropriate)

If my child is adopted, I understand that I will no longer legally be treated as the parent and that my child will become a part of the adopter(s)' family. I also understand that my consent to placement for adoption means that the adoption agency will have parental responsibility for my child and my own parental rights will be restricted. When my child is placed with the prospective adopter(s), they will also have parental responsibility.

I understand that, once I have signed this form and consented to my child's placement for adoption, my right to change my mind and ask for my child's return will be limited and may be lost altogether. I also understand that I may not remove my child from the adoption agency or the prospective adopter(s) and that, if I do, I may be liable to prosecution.

I understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time until the prospective adopter(s) start(s) an adoption application in the court. If I do withdraw my consent and want my child returned to me, I understand that I must notify the adoption agency that I have changed my mind and I must, at all times, act through the agency and not approach the prospective adopter(s) directly.

If I withdraw my consent, I understand that whether or not my child is returned to me will depend on a number of factors:

- If at the time my child has not been placed with the prospective adopter(s), the agency will return my child to me within seven days of receiving my notification, unless they still consider that my child ought to be adopted. In that case, an application may have been or may be made to the court for a placement order and my child will only be returned to me if the court gives permission.
- If at the time my child has been placed with the prospective adopter(s), but they have not yet applied to the court for an adoption order then
 - *either* an application may have been or may be made to the court for a placement order and my child will only be returned to me if the court gives permission;
 - *or* the agency will give the prospective adopter(s) notice that they must return my child to the agency within fourteen days, and the agency will then return the child to me.
- If at the time the prospective adopter(s) have already applied to the court for an adoption order, I understand that I will not be able to ask the agency for my child to be returned. I will be entitled to be told when the prospective adopters make their application to the court, but I will only be able to oppose the making of the adoption order if the court gives me permission to do so. For the court to consider giving permission, I must be able to show that there has been a change of circumstances since I gave my consent.

I understand that once I have given my consent to placement I will have no right to contact with my child, except by arrangement with the agency or under a court order. I am entitled to apply to the court for an order for contact with my child at any time, and the court will decide on the contact arrangements it considers are most appropriate.

I understand that I may sign a separate form consenting in advance to my child's adoption, and that if I do so, I can also ask not to be informed when the adoption application is made.

I have not received any payment or reward from any person making arrangements for the adoption of my child.

*[I have taken legal advice] / *[I have not taken legal advice, but I have been advised to do so],
about giving consent to my child being placed for adoption and the effect on my parental rights.
**(delete as appropriate)*

I consent unconditionally and with full understanding of what is involved, to the placement of
_____ (my child) for adoption with
* [_____ (the named prospective adopter(s))
* [the prospective adopter(s) identified as _____]
**(complete as appropriate)*

Signed.....

on.....day of20xx

Witness statement

This form was signed by
on the.....day of20xx
before me (*print full name*).....

Signed.....

Office of witness*.....
Address of witness.....
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* In England and Wales this form must be witnessed by an officer of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service or, where the child is ordinarily resident in Wales, by a Welsh family proceedings officer. In Scotland it should be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace or a Sheriff, and in Northern Ireland by a Justice of the Peace.

Outside the United Kingdom, the form should be witnessed by a person who is authorised by law in the place where the document is signed to administer an oath for any judicial or legal purpose, a British Consular Officer, a notary public, or, if the person executing the document is serving in the regular armed forces of the Crown, an officer holding a commission in any of those forces.