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Child Adoption: Legal Relationship between a Child and a Parent

Child adoption has already become one of the most discussed and debatable topics not only at the national level, but all over the world.

Child adoption is a highly specialised field of social activity that focuses on supporting kids and providing them with safe homes and caring families. Nowadays, more and more couples are willing to adopt a child due to their personal circumstances. How does the adoption process take place?

I would like to highlight some important aspects and primary criteria for children adoption on the example of the United Kingdom. In order to adopt a child in Great Britain one should be aware of general rules and appropriate conditions for both prospective parents and children.

First of all, to be adopted a child must be under the age of 18 when the adoption application is made and they should not be married or in a civil partnership. As for the requirements for the future parents, they may be able to adopt a child if they are aged 21 or over. However, one does not have to be a British citizen to adopt a child, but prospective parents must have fixed salary and a permanent home in the UK, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and have lived in the UK for at least 1 year before the application process begins.

Furthermore, adoption will take much time – about half a year. The adoption approval process normally takes about 6 months. And only after this period of time one will be matched with a child for adoption.

In addition, when the future parents decide to adopt a child and begin the adoption process they should go through an adoption agency. To make an adoption legal, you need to apply for an adoption court order. This gives you parental rights and responsibilities for the child. The child must have lived with you for at least 10 weeks before you apply. Once the order has been granted the adoption becomes permanent and you get an adoption certificate which shows the child’s new name and replaces the original birth certificate. Now the children will have the same rights as if they were your own birth children.

Adoption process in Ukraine is similar to that in the UK. Ukraine supports children in three different ways: domestic adoption, foster care and international adoption the latter being the most undesirable as the adopted children can’t be controlled overseas. At the same time there are cases in Ukraine when foster and adoptive families abuse orphans and take them just as a source of income instead of loving them, caring for them and treating them as their own children.