

FORM ACA-2

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT 2022

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2024

CONSENT OF RELEVANT PERSON FOR THE ADOPTION OF A CHILD FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 26(2)(B) OF THE ACT

- The purpose of Form ACA-2 (the “Form”) is for a Relevant Person to give consent for the adoption of the child named in Section 1(B).
- Each Relevant Person MUST complete a separate Form. The Relevant Person completing the Form MUST sign at the bottom of every page, in the box labelled “Relevant Person’s signature”.

SECTION 1 : PARTICULARS**A. Particulars of Relevant Person**

Full Name	
NRIC/FIN/Identity/Passport Number	
Age	
Nationality/Citizenship	
Current address	
Nature of relationship to child	<i>Please select :</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Parent or guardian of the child <input type="checkbox"/> Person having actual custody of the child <input type="checkbox"/> Person liable to contribute to the support of the child

B. Particulars of child

Full Name	
Birth Certificate/Identity/Passport Number	
Date of birth	
Sex	Male / Female
Country of birth	
Nationality/Citizenship	

Relevant Person’s signature:

C. Particulars of the Applicant(s)

	Full Name	NRIC/FIN/Identity/ Passport Number
Applicant 1		
Applicant 2 <i>(if applicable)</i>		

SECTION 2 : CONSENT

I, _____ (*state full name and identity number*),
being a Relevant Person in relation to _____
(*state child's full name and child's identity number*) state as follows:

1. I understand that, unless I am also an Applicant to this adoption, an adoption order will:
 - a. permanently deprive me of my parental rights over the child; and
 - b. result in me no longer having any rights, duties, obligations and liabilities over the child's custody, care and control, maintenance and education.
2. I further understand that, before the adoption order is made, the Court may make an interim order giving custody and care and control of the child to the Applicant(s).
3. I confirm that:
 - a. I have been provided the information and documents set out in Regulation 8 of the Regulations and have read and understood all of them, including the whole of this document;
 - b. I have not received or agreed to receive (directly or indirectly) any payment or other reward for the adoption of the child, except such payments allowed under the law;
 - c. I do not suffer any mental incapacity and am not under the influence of any drug, medication or other substance which might affect my reasoning or judgement;
 - d. I understand that this document may be submitted to the Court as evidence of my consent to the adoption;
 - e. I further understand that I may be contacted if other information on my agreement to the adoption is required, and may be notified if an adoption order is not made;
 - f. If an adoption order is made, I [agree/do not agree]* to the relevant Singapore government agencies providing my last known address and/or contact details, to the Applicant(s) or the child, to contact me after the adoption;
 - g. I have been informed of my right to seek independent legal advice. I [have received legal advice/have chosen not to seek or receive legal advice]*; and

Relevant Person's signature:

- h. I have had enough time to carefully consider the contents of this document and I am signing this document freely and voluntarily.
- 4. I hereby consent to the adoption of the child by the Applicant(s).
- 5. I consent to dispense with the service of the Originating Application and all subsequent documents filed in these adoption proceedings on me.

For the Relevant Person: You must sign this section in the presence of two witnesses above the age of 21 years, present at the same time, AND a lawyer or person who is authorised to administer oaths.	
Signature of Relevant Person	
Full Name of Relevant Person	
Date	
[Through the interpretation of _____ (name of interpreter) in _____ (language of interpretation).]*	

In the presence of:	
Signature of First Witness	
Full Name of First Witness	
Identity Number of First Witness	

Signature of Second Witness	
Full Name of Second Witness	
Identity Number of Second Witness	

Before me,

[Solicitor/Commissioner for Oaths/Notary Public/any person who is authorised to administer oaths]*

**delete where applicable*

Relevant Person's signature:

Annex A – Information Sheet

I. Introduction

1. The consent for the adoption of a child is an important requirement in the adoption process. No adoption order can be made unless all the requirements for giving consent have been met or the consent requirement has been waived by the Court.
2. Every “Relevant Person” in relation to a child identified for adoption must give consent to the adoption. “Relevant Person” refers to any person who is the biological parent or guardian of the child, has actual custody of the child, or is liable to support the child.
3. Relevant Persons must be provided the information and documents set out at Regulation 8 of the Adoption of Children (General) Regulations 2024 before agreeing to the adoption (See [Annex B](#)). These are collectively referred to as “Prescribed Information”. Relevant Persons should ensure they have read and understood all the Prescribed Information, this Information Sheet and the completed Form ACA-1.
4. Consent must be obtained in writing and in Form ACA-2. Relevant Persons should read Form ACA-2 carefully before signing it. Form ACA-2 is to be signed in the presence of two witnesses¹ present at the same time and attested by an authorised person².

¹ Witnesses must be at least 21 years old and cannot be the applicant, the applicant’s lawyer or agent or a person engaged by an adoption agency to facilitate the adoption.

² Authorised person includes a lawyer, commissioner for oaths, notary public or person authorised by law to administer oaths.

5. This Information Sheet is intended to provide guidance on the information relevant to giving consent for the adoption of a child, in accordance with section 26(2)(a) of the Adoption of Children Act 2022. The content of this Information Sheet is not intended to constitute or be relied upon as legal advice. Independent legal advice should be sought if one has any further questions or concerns about the consent for the adoption of a child, or the adoption process in general.

II. Adoption of children in Singapore

6. Adoption is the legal process through which applicants apply to become the adoptive parents of a child. The Guardian-in-Adoption (“GIA”) has the general duty of safeguarding the welfare of any child identified for adoption. Applications for an adoption order are decided by the Family Justice Courts.
7. Please refer to [Annex C](#) for an overview of the adoption process in Singapore.

III. Eligibility criteria for adopters and pre-adoption requirements

8. Prospective adoptive parents must meet certain eligibility criteria and pre-adoption requirements before they can proceed with an adoption application. Please refer to the key eligibility criteria and pre-adoption requirements below.

	<u>Joint Applicants</u>	<u>Sole Applicant</u>
Eligibility Criteria* <i>*Certain criteria may be dispensed with by the Court if special circumstances exist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Married couple whose marriage is recognised under Singapore law• At least one spouse is a Singapore Citizen, or both spouses are Singapore Permanent Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident• Habitually resident in Singapore• Above 25 years old and at least 21 years older than the child

Relevant Person’s signature:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both habitually resident in Singapore • Both above 25 years old and at least 21 years older than the child • Both not convicted of serious crimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not convicted of serious crimes • If married, consent of spouse required • Sole male applicants cannot adopt a girl
Pre-adoption requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a pre-adoption briefing within the last 3 years • Attended a disclosure of adoptive status briefing within the last 3 years • Holds a valid and favourable Adoption Suitability Assessment (“ASA”) <p>• The briefings and ASA are conducted by Authorised Adoption Agencies (“AAAs”). AAAs must assess prospective adoptive parents’ suitability to adopt by reference to the suitability factors at Regulation 6 of the Adoption of Children (General) Regulations 2024 (“Suitability Factors”).</p>	

IV. Identifying a child for adoption

9. Only children who are below 21 years old, never married, and a resident of Singapore are eligible for adoption. The child must be a Singapore Citizen, Singapore Permanent Resident or a Dependant’s Pass holder to be deemed a resident of Singapore.
10. Relevant Persons who are the biological parent(s) considering putting their child up for adoption may wish to consider kinship or kithship care as an alternative to adoption. This arrangement involves entrusting the care of the child to a relative or friend who is able and willing to care for the child. At the same time, the biological parent retains legal parental rights over the child and may resume care of the child when appropriate. Biological parents should therefore be consulted and agree to important matters concerning the child (i.e. religion, education, well-being).

Restrictions on publishing or broadcasting information

11. All persons involved in making any arrangements for the adoption of a child should comply with the restrictions on publication or broadcast of information or pictures of children involved in adoption proceedings or for adoption. The Court may order the removal of the publication or to stop the broadcast of any information or picture of children involved in adoption proceedings or for adoption.

V. Obtaining consent of Relevant Persons

12. After a child is identified for adoption, Relevant Persons in relation to the child will be asked to give consent for the adoption in Form ACA-2. Relevant Persons should also be provided Form ACA-1 containing the particulars as to the name, age, sex, nationality, race and religion of the prospective adoptive parents.
13. Consent must be provided freely and voluntarily, without the use of any improper means (e.g. use of fraud, duress or undue influence). There should be no payment or other rewards made or received in consideration for the adoption or proposed adoption of the child, save for which is permitted by law.
14. The Court may disregard Form ACA-2 if it was obtained through fraud or other improper means.

VI. Placement of the child

15. If the child is not a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident, applicants must apply for a Dependant’s Pass. Relevant Persons may be contacted by an officer from the Ministry of Social and Family Development (“MSF”) for the purpose of processing an application for a Dependant’s Pass.

Relevant Person’s signature:

16. A prospective adoptive parent must not reside with the child or spend any amount of time with the child unless he or she holds a valid and favourable ASA, and in the case of a non-Singaporean or non-Permanent Resident child, obtained either a Dependant's Pass or in-principle approval for a Dependant's Pass for the child.

VII. Adoption application

17. Applicants may proceed to make an adoption application if all the pre-adoption requirements have been met. The adoption application must include the completed Form ACA-2 or otherwise seek an order to dispense with the consent of Relevant Persons. The adoption application may also seek interim orders in relation to the child. A copy of the adoption application must be served on every Relevant Person (unless the Relevant Person has consented to dispense with such service on him/her) and the GIA.

GIA investigations and powers

18. The GIA will commence investigations on the proposed adoption upon the making of an adoption application.
19. Relevant Persons may be contacted as part of the GIA investigations. For example, Relevant Persons may be asked to verify (a) the circumstances leading to the proposed adoption, (b) that the consent in Form ACA-2 was not obtained through fraud or improper means, and (c) that no non-permitted payments or other rewards were made or received in consideration for the adoption. Please note that the GIA has powers to direct Relevant Persons to undergo an assessment (e.g. medical, psychiatric or psychological) or submit information or documents for the purpose of the investigations.
20. After the investigations are concluded, the GIA must submit an affidavit setting out the results of its investigations to Court, including whether the applicants are suitable to adopt based on the Suitability Factors.

Court's powers

21. The Court may also, on the application of the GIA or on its own motion, make certain orders in relation to Relevant Persons. For example, Relevant Persons may be ordered to provide information and documents to the Court or the GIA, undergo assessments, send the child to undergo assessments, and attend or partake in mediation, counselling, etc. The Court may require Relevant Persons to enter into a bond to comply with such order for mediation or counselling.

Non-compliance, failure to disclose material information, and provision of false or misleading information

22. In the event of non-compliance with the GIA's directions or Court orders, failure to disclose material information, or provision of false or misleading information, the GIA or the Court may draw an adverse inference against the Relevant Person as to whether the consent in Form ACA-2 has been validly obtained or ought to be dispensed with. The Court may also order any person responsible for non-compliance to pay the costs of the adoption proceedings.

Dispensation of consent

23. The Court has the power to dispense with the consent of a Relevant Person. This includes situations where the child is in long-term state care or has been abandoned, neglected or ill-treated by the Relevant Person. The Court may also dispense with consent if the Relevant Person is found to be unable, unwilling or unlikely to care for the child.

Relevant Person's signature:

Outcome of the adoption application

24. The Court will hear and decide on the adoption application. An adoption order will only be made if the Court is satisfied that (a) the consent of every Relevant Person has either been validly obtained or dispensed with, (b) the adoption order will be in the welfare of the child, and (c) the applicants have the appropriate character and fitness and are suitable to adopt the child, having regard to the Suitability Factors. The Court must also give due consideration to the wishes of the child, having regard to the age and maturity of the child.
25. In the event of an unsuccessful adoption, the Court may order the person having physical custody of the child to deliver and place the child with a suitable person recommended by the GIA. Relevant Persons may be contacted if an adoption order is not made.

VIII. Effect of the adoption order

26. An adoption order permanently removes the parental rights and duties of the child's biological parent over the child. This means that all rights, duties, obligations and liabilities of the child's parent or guardian, in relation to future custody, care and control, maintenance and education, will be terminated and transferred to the adoptive parents. However, an adoption order in itself does not affect the citizenship of the child.

IX. Post-adoption matters

Post-adoption orders

27. The GIA may apply for post-adoption orders after the conclusion of the adoption proceedings, if it is deemed necessary for the child's welfare. Relevant Persons may be required to undergo mediation, counselling, etc if ordered by the Court, and the Court may require Relevant Persons to enter into a bond to comply with such order for mediation or counselling.

Post-adoption contact with an adopted child under 21 years of age

28. Biological parent(s) and Relevant Persons should refrain from contacting the child, unless mutually agreed by the adoptive parents.

Post-adoption contact with an adopted child above 21 years of age

29. An adopted child who has attained 21 years of age may request access to adoption records held by MSF. Biological parent(s) and Relevant Persons may consent for MSF or any relevant Singapore government agency to disclose their last known address and/or contact details to the child.

X. Offences

30. Certain acts are offences under the Adoption of Children Act 2022, which can carry penalties such as fines or imprisonment. Please refer to the list of offences below.

Offence	Penalty for first time offender	Penalty for repeat offender
Failure to comply with order for removal of child upon unsuccessful adoption application : Section 43(5)	Up to 3 years imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both	Up to 6 years imprisonment or \$20,000 fine or both
Publication or broadcast of information or pictures of children involved in adoption proceedings : Section 48(4)	Up to \$5,000 fine	Up to \$10,000 fine
Publication or broadcast of information or pictures of children for adoption, etc : Sections 51(2), (4), (5)	Up to \$5,000 fine	Up to \$10,000 fine

Relevant Person's signature:

Offence	Penalty for first time offender	Penalty for repeat offender
Making, giving, receiving or agreeing to make, give or receive payments or rewards not permitted : Section 55(3)	Up to 3 years imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both	Up to 6 years imprisonment or \$20,000 fine or both
Use of fraud, duress, undue influence or other improper means to obtain consent to adoption : Section 56(2)	Up to 3 years imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both	Up to 6 years imprisonment or \$20,000 fine or both
Premature placement of a child with prospective adopter before certain conditions are met : Section 57(5)	Up to 3 years imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both	Up to 6 years imprisonment or \$20,000 fine or both
Failure to comply with a court order to deliver the child to the physical custody of a suitable person in a case of premature placement : Section 57(10)	Up to 3 years imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both	Up to 6 years imprisonment or \$20,000 fine or both
Providing false information, etc., in connection with ASA or GIA's affidavit : Section 59(1)	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$5,000 fine or both	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both
Failing to report offences to the GIA : Section 60(3)	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$5,000 fine or both	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both
Obstructing the GIA or an authorised officer conducting investigations into suspected offences : Section 64	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$5,000 fine or both	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both
Providing false information to the GIA or an authorised officer exercising enforcement powers : Section 65(1)	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$5,000 fine or both	Up to 12 months imprisonment or \$10,000 fine or both

XI. Useful links and resources

31. Relevant Persons may refer to the following resources:

<p>Authorised Adoption Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APKIM Centre For Social Services Website : www.apkim.sg • Lutheran Community Care Services Website : www.lccs.org.sg • Fei Yue Community Services Website : www.fyccs.org • TOUCH Community Services Website : www.touch.org.sg
<p>MSF Adoption Email : MSF_adoption@msf.gov.sg Telephone : 1800 111 2222 Website : www.msf.gov.sg/adoption</p>
<p>Family Justice Courts Website : https://www.judiciary.gov.sg/family/file-adoption-order</p>

Relevant Person's signature:

Annex B – Regulation 8 of Adoption of Children (General) Regulations 2024

Prescribed information to be provided to relevant persons, etc.

8. —(1) The following information are prescribed for the purposes of section 26(2)(a) of the Act:

- (a) the criteria and requirements under sections 4 to 7, 11 to 14 and 42 of the Act which are to be satisfied for an adoption in Singapore;
- (b) the powers of the Guardian-in-Adoption and the court in relation to a relevant person of a child under sections 29(1), (2) and (5), 33(1), 34(1) and (6), 35(1) and (2), and 45(2) and (3) of the Act;
- (c) the power of the court to make orders under sections 49(1) and 52(1) of the Act;
- (d) the following information relating to the consent of a relevant person:
 - (i) the requirements of and relating to a validly obtained consent of a relevant person under section 26(2) of the Act and regulation 10;
 - (ii) the prohibition in section 56 of the Act against the use of fraud, duress, undue influence or other improper means to obtain the consent of a relevant person, and the consequences of contravening the prohibition;
- (e) the grounds set out in section 37 of the Act under which the consent of a relevant person may be dispensed with;
- (f) the effect of an adoption order under section 46 of the Act;
- (g) the offences under sections 43(5), 48(4), 51(2), (4) and (5), 55(3), 56(2), 57(5) and (10), 59(1), 60(3), 64 and 65(1) of the Act;
- (h) all the information relating to the following matters and appended to the form of consent prescribed by regulation 9:
 - (i) kinship or kithship care as an alternative to adoption;
 - (ii) post-adoption contact between an adopted child and his or her biological parents.

(2) The document in Form ACA-1 containing the particulars as to the name, age, sex, nationality, race and religion of the person or persons who intend to adopt the child in question is prescribed for the purposes of section 26(2)(a) of the Act.

(3) A person obtaining the consent of a relevant person of a child —


- (a) may provide the information mentioned in sub-paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) of paragraph (1) to the relevant person by drawing the relevant person's attention to the provisions that are specified in that sub-paragraph; and
- (b) may provide the information mentioned in paragraph (1)(h) to the relevant person by drawing the relevant person's attention to the information appended to the form of consent prescribed by regulation 9.

Additional Resources :


- The Adoption of Children Act 2022: <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Acts-Supp/20-2022>
- The legal provisions specified in Regulation 8 of the Adoption of Children (General) Regulations 2024 (current as at 11 Oct 2024): <https://www.msf.gov.sg/what-we-do/adoption/adoption-process/step-3-identify-a-child-to-adopt>
- MSF Adoption : www.msf.gov.sg/adoption

Looking to adopt?



- 

1 Attend the Pre-Adoption Briefing and Disclosure Briefing by an authorised adoption agency (AAA). Find out more and register for the briefings at <https://go.gov.sg/adoption-briefings>.

Make an adoption application within 3 years of attendance.
- 


2 Obtain a valid and favourable Adoption Suitability Assessment (ASA) from an AAA.

ASA is valid for 2 years. You must notify the AAA or the Guardian-in-Adoption (GIA) if you experience any material changes in circumstances as prescribed in the Adoption of Children (General) Regulations 2024.
- 3** Identify a child for adoption.


If you are adopting an unrelated child, you may identify a child through AAAs, or your private contacts.

You are encouraged to consider adopting a child under state care. Contact MSF_Adoption@msf.gov.sg to find out more.


If you are adopting a foreign child, apply for a Dependant's Pass (DP). Find out more at <https://go.gov.sg/dependants-pass>.

The DP will take about 20 working days to be processed. If approved, the DP is valid for 21 months.
- 

4 Submit your adoption application to Court. Attend all interviews and home visits by the GIA. You may engage a lawyer or represent yourself in the adoption proceedings.

GIA's investigation typically takes up to 9 months to complete. It can be longer if there are complicating factors.
- 

5 Court fixes hearing for your adoption application.

Process usually takes up to a month.
- 

6 Court decides on the outcome of your adoption application. If Court grants your adoption application, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority will issue your adopted child a new e-Birth Certificate.

If your adopted child is on a DP, please apply for a new foreign travel document before the DP expires.

Relevant Person's signature: