



BELIZE

**FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ACT
CHAPTER 173**

REVISED EDITION 2003
SHOWING THE SUBSIDIARY LAWS AS AT 31ST OCTOBER, 2003

This is a revised edition of the Subsidiary Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000.

ARRANGEMENT OF SUBSIDIARY LAWS



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This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws-

Page

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--------|
| 1. | FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ACT
(COMMENCEMENT) ORDER | 4 - 5 |
| 2. | FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (CHILD ABUSE)
(REPORTING) REGULATIONS | 6 - 14 |

	<i>Page</i>
3. FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (PROTECTION OF CHILDREN) (BELIZE CITY) REGULATIONS	15 - 17
4. ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (SUPREME COURT) RULES	18 - 37

CHAPTER 173**FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ACT (COMMENCEMENT)**
ORDER**ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS**

1. Short title.
 2. Commencement.
-

CHAPTER 173

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ACT (COMMENCEMENT) ORDER
(Section 1)

78/1998.
Act 17 of 1998.

[18th July, 1998.]

1. This Order may be cited as the

Short title.

**FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ACT (COMMENCEMENT)
ORDER.**

2. In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 1(2) of the Families and Children Act, **I, FAITH BABB**, Minister of Human Resources, Women's Affairs and Youth Development, do hereby appoint the 1st day of August, 1998 as the day on which the said Act shall come into force.

Commencement
of Chapter 173.

MADE this 14th day of July, 1998.

(FAITH BABB)

*Acting Minister of Human Resources
Women's Affairs and Youth Development*

CHAPTER 173**FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (CHILD ABUSE) (REPORTING)
REGULATIONS****ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Reporting by members of the public.
4. Hospitals, etc., to report cases of child abuse.
5. Other categories of persons with a duty to report cases of child abuse.
6. Penalties for failing to report cases of child abuse.
7. Investigation.
8. Protective custody.
9. Protection of persons who take child into protective custody.
10. Magistrates Court or Family Court to be notified.
11. Physical examination.
 - 11:01. Medical certificate
12. Criminal proceedings against person who commits acts of child abuse.
13. Confidentiality of identity of victim.

- 13:01. Concealment of child giving evidence.
 - 14. Confidentiality of court records relating to child abuse.
 - 14:01. *Amicus curiae*.
 - 15. Commencement.
-

CHAPTER 173

38/1999.
18/2002.
Act 17 of 1998.

**FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (CHILD ABUSE) (REPORTING)
REGULATIONS**

[3rd April, 1999.]

- Short title. 1. These Regulations may be cited as the
- FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (CHILD ABUSE)
(REPORTING) REGULATIONS.**
- Interpretation. 2. (1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:-
- CAP. 173. “Act” means the Families and Children Act;
- “child” has the same meaning assigned to in the Act;
- “child abuse” includes but is not limited to the infliction on a child of physical, psychological, emotional or sexual harm, injury, abuse or exploitation, and the ill-treatment or neglect of a child;
- “Department” means the Department of the Ministry with responsibility for Social Services and includes any district branch thereof;
- “Director” means the Director of the Department;
- CAP. 93. “Family Court” shall have the meaning assigned to it in the Family Court Act;
- “ill-treatment of a child” includes but is not limited to any act, word, deed or omission which debases, degrades or otherwise demeans the intrinsic worth,

dignity or self esteem of a child as a human being:

Provided, however, that any reasonable disciplinary measures administered or undertaken by a parent or legal guardian to a child under the parent or legal guardian's care and control shall not constitute ill-treatment if such measures are administered or undertaken reasonably and in moderation, and do not cause physical, psychological or emotional harm or injury to the child, regard being taken for this purpose to the age and maturity of the child;

“Minister” means the Minister for the time being responsible for Social Services and “Ministry” shall be construed accordingly;

“neglect” means the willful failure by a person with the custody and/or control of a child, to provide adequate and nutritional food, clothing, shelter, protection and safety, basic education, or medical care, for reasons other than poverty, or mental or physical illness or disability on the part of such person, and when such failure endangers the physical, mental, emotional and social growth and development of the child;

“physical injury” includes but is not limited to lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe injuries or serious bodily harm suffered by a child;

“psychological injury” includes but is not limited to harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning which may be exhibited by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal or outwardly aggressive behaviour, or any combination of the aforesaid characteristics, which may be demonstrated by a change in behaviour, or in emotional response or cognition;

“sexual abuse or exploitation” includes but is not limited to the employment, hiring, use, persuasion, inducement, coercion or enticement of a child to engage in, or aid another person to engage in, sexual intercourse, fondling, oral sex, sodomy or any other activity of a sexual nature, or to engage in prostitution, indecent behaviour or incest with other children or with adults, or to perform in obscene or indecent exhibitions and/or shows, whether live or on video or on

film, or by electronic media or to pose or act as a model in obscene publications or other pornographic materials, or to sell, or participate in the selling of, or to distribute or participate in the distribution of, such publications and/or materials;

18 of 2002.

“Social Services Practitioner” means a person performing the functions specified for a Social Services Practitioner under the Act.

(2) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to a Magistrate Court shall be read and construed, as the case may be, to be a reference to -

CAP. 94.

(a) a Summary Jurisdiction Court exercising criminal jurisdiction in accordance with the Inferior Courts Act where such reference is in relation to criminal matters; and

CAP. 94.

(b) a District Court exercising civil jurisdiction in accordance, with the Inferior Courts Act where such reference is in relation to civil matters and maintenance and other related orders which such court is authorised to determine by or under the Act.

Reporting by members of the public.

3. Every person who reasonably believes, or who learns of facts and circumstances which give rise to a reasonable belief, that any child has suffered or is suffering child abuse shall have a social and moral obligation and duty henceforth to report the suspected child abuse, either orally or in writing, to the Belize Police Department or to the Department for investigation.

Hospitals, etc., to report cases of child abuse.

4. Any person in charge and control of any public or private hospital, medical clinic or any other similar medical institution, or any physician, nurse or other medical personnel who attends a child exhibiting signs of child abuse, shall henceforth promptly and without undue delay, after conducting a medical examination and treatment of the child, and on being professionally satisfied that the child seems to have suffered from child abuse, report such abuse in

writing to the Belize Police Department or to the Department for investigation.

5. It shall be the duty of any family member, teacher, social worker, school counsellor, employee of a certified children’s institution (especially the Manager thereof), school administrator, principal and deputy principal of any educational institution, dean of a college, probation officer, police officer or any other employee or officer of the Government whose daily duties entails dealing regularly with children, to promptly report orally or in writing all incidents of suspected child abuse which comes to his knowledge and/or attention to the Belize Police Department or to the Department for investigation.

Other categories of persons with a duty to report cases of child abuse.

6. (1) Any person referred to in Regulations 4 and 5 above who fails to report a case of suspected child abuse which comes to his knowledge and/or attention, or who unduly delays in making such a report, or who fails to make such a report in the manner set forth in the aforesaid Regulations, commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Penalties for failing to report cases of child abuse.

(2) Any person referred to in Regulation 3 above who reports a case of suspected child abuse in good faith shall not be liable to any civil or criminal proceedings arising therefrom, and it shall be deemed that every person referred to in the said Regulation who reports a case of suspected child abuse does so in good faith.

7. Upon receipt of a report on an alleged incident of child abuse, the Department or the Belize Police Department, as the case may be, shall forthwith proceed to the home, establishment or other address where the alleged child victim is said to be, and conduct all such interviews as may be necessary to determine whether such child has suffered any child abuse, and also to assess the safety of the child and the need to place the child into protective custody.

Investigation.

8. If the initial investigation carried out under Regulation 7 above discloses that the child has indeed suffered from child abuse, a member of the Belize

Protective custody.

Police Department, or a Social Services Practitioner, or such other person as the Minister may designate in writing, shall forthwith assess whether it is necessary to remove the child from the place where he is found and place him under protective custody to ensure his safety.

Protection of persons who take child into protective custody.

9. No member of the Belize Police Department, or a Social Services Practitioner, or the person designated by the Minister under Regulation 8 above, who takes a child into protective custody to ensure the safety and well-being of the child shall be personally liable in any criminal or civil proceedings for taking the child into protective custody.

Magistrates Court or Family Court to be notified.

10. Whenever a child has been taken into protective custody pursuant to these Regulations, it shall be the duty of the person who, or the Department which, took the child into protective custody to notify the Magistrates Court or the Family Court and the Department, where applicable, of that fact as soon as may be, but in any case not later than forty-eight hours after taking the child into protective custody, or within the next working day thereafter, whichever is applicable.

Physical examination.

11. (1) It shall be the duty of the Department or the Police Department to refer every child placed under protective custody for physical and psychological examination and (where applicable) medical treatment by a duly registered medical practitioner and/or psychologist.

(2) The Department may, after carefully considering the type of child abuse suffered by a child victim, require the child victim to be placed within a medical institution which offers a treatment program best suited to meet the treatment needs of the child victim.

Medical certificate.
18 of 2002.

11:01 The medical certificate containing the results of the physical and psychological examination and (where applicable) medical treatment required by Regulation 11 shall, be thorough and detailed and (where necessary) the doctor or medical officer shall provide his or her own classification of the injury.

12. (1) The Department, or the Police Department if it has been involved in the initial investigation of an alleged child abuse case, and if it has taken the child victim into protective custody and sent him for physical and psychological examination and/or medical treatment as provided in these Regulations, shall, upon obtaining the results of the physical and psychological examination and/or medical treatment of the child victim, prepare an investigation report covering the whole investigative process (from the initial report to the medical examination and treatment) and shall in the case of the Department, submit such report together with the results of the medical examination and treatment to the Belize Police Department for the institution of appropriate criminal proceedings against the person who allegedly committed the acts constituting child abuse in that case. Criminal proceedings against person who commits acts of child abuse. 18 of 2002.
- (2) The medical certificate containing the results of the physical and psychological examination and (where applicable) medical treatment, shall be submitted by the Belize Police Department to the Court before which the alleged child abuser is being prosecuted. 18 of 2002.
- (3) The Court or the Belize Police Department shall report any child abuse case that enters the criminal justice system to the Ministry. 18 of 2002.
13. The name of an abused Child or any information relating to the circumstances of the abuse shall not be published through any medium or otherwise disseminated except with the permission of the court dealing with the case. Confidentiality of identity of victim.
- 13:01. A child giving evidence in a child abuse case shall give evidence from behind a screen or other means of concealment in order to ensure the child's privacy and protection. Concealment of child giving evidence. 18 of 2002.
14. (1) All court records relating to cases of child abuse shall be kept strictly confidential and no information relating thereto shall be disclosed to any member of the public except with the written permission of the court dealing with the case. Confidentiality of court records relating to child abuse.

(2) Any person who contravenes subregulation (1) of this Regulation or Regulation 13 above commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Amicus curiae.
18 of 2002.

14:01. The Court shall appoint an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in all cases involving child abuse.

Commencement.

15. These Regulations shall come into force on the 29 day of March, 1999.

MADE by the Minister of Human Development, Women and Youth this 29th day of March, 1999.

(DOLORES BALDERAMOS GARCIA)

*Minister of Human Development,
Women and Youth*

CHAPTER 173

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (PROTECTION OF CHILDREN)
(BELIZE CITY) REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Declaration of curfew between specified times for children in Belize City.
4. Application.
5. Commencement.

CHAPTER 173

41 of 1999.
Act 17 of 1998.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (PROTECTION OF CHILDREN)
(BELIZE CITY) REGULATIONS
(Section 152)

[10th April, 1999.]

- Short title. 1. These Regulations may be cited as the
- FAMILIES AND CHILDREN (PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN) (BELIZE CITY) REGULATIONS.**
- Interpretation. 2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:-
- CAP. 173. “Act” means the Families and Children Act;
- “child” means a person of or under the age of sixteen years;
- “Department” means the Department of Human Development;
- “guardian” in relation to a child, means a person having parental responsibility for the child;
- “parent” means the biological father or mother or adoptive father or mother of a child, and includes any person liable by law to maintain a child or entitled to its custody.
- Declaration of curfew between specified times for children in Belize City. 3. (1) Any person who, being the parent or guardian of a child, allows or suffers such child to loiter, wander or be in a street, park or other public place in Belize City between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. unaccompanied by such parent or guardian commits an offence and shall be

liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, or to both such fine and period of imprisonment.

(2) If a member of the Belize Police Force, or an officer of the Department, finds any such child in or on a public place between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., unaccompanied by its parent or guardian, it shall be lawful for him:

- (a) to forthwith take and place that child into protective care, and thereafter to apply for an interim care order under section 112 of the Act;
- (b) to assess the safety of the child, and conduct such investigation as may be necessary to determine whether the child is a victim of child abuse;
- (c) to conduct investigation necessary to establish the identity of the parent or guardian of the child.

4. These Regulations shall apply within the boundaries of Belize City as defined in the Belize City (Redefinition of Boundaries) Order, 1993. Application. S.I. 24/1993.

5. These Regulations shall come into force on the 9th day of April, 1999. Commencement.

MADE by the Minister of Human Development, Women and Youth this 9th day of April, 1999.

(DOLORES BALDERAMOS GARCIA)
Minister of Human Development, Women and Youth

CHAPTER 173**ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (SUPREME COURT) RULES****ARRANGEMENT OF RULES**

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Application.
4. Second Application.
5. Guardian *ad litem*.
6. Undertaking for costs.
7. Evidence in support of application.
8. Filing evidence: service.
9. Duty of guardian.
10. Hearing.
11. Service of notice.
12. Objections.
13. Transmission of order.
14. Duplicates.
15. Notification of absent parties.
16. Further hearing.
17. Appointment by guardian.
18. Mode of service.

19. Practice and procedure.
 20. Fees and costs.
 21. Taxation of Costs.
-

CHAPTER 173**ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (SUPREME COURT) RULES***(Section 155 (2))*

- Short title. 1. These Rules may be cited as the
- ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (SUPREME COURT) RULES.**
- Interpretation. 2. (1) In these Rules the following expressions shall have meanings hereby assigned to them:
- CAP. 173. “interim order” means an interim order made under section 141 of the Families and Children Act;
- “person” includes a body of persons;
- “the applicant” includes either, as well as both, of two joint applicants.
- (2) A form referred to by number means the form so numbered in the Schedule to these Rules.
- Application. 3. An application for an adoption order shall be made by originating summons in Form 1. The proposed adopter shall be the applicant and the infant shall be the respondent.
- Second application. 4. If it appears that the applicant has previously made an application for an adoption order in respect of the same infant, the application shall not be proceeded with unless the judge is satisfied that there has been a substantial change in the circumstances since the previous application.
- Guardian *ad litem*. 5. The originating summons shall be supported by an affidavit by the applicant setting out all facts relevant to the appointment of the proposed

guardian *ad litem*, and the judge may appoint such person as he thinks fit to be guardian *ad litem*.

6. It shall be a condition of any order appointing a guardian *ad litem* that the applicant's Attorney-at-Law, or if the applicant appears in person, the applicant, shall give an undertaking in Form 2 to provide for the proper costs of the person appointed to act as guardian *ad litem* of the infant.

Undertaking
for costs.

7. The evidence in support of an application for an adoption order shall be given by means of a statement in Form 3 and verified by affidavit. Any document signifying the consent of any person to the making of an adoption order shall be in Form 4, and shall be exhibited to the affidavit.

Evidence in
support of
application.

8. The evidence shall be filed within fourteen days after the issue of the originating summons, and a copy of the applicant's statement and of the documents attached thereto shall be served on the guardian *ad litem*.

Filing evidence:
service.

9. It shall be the duty of the guardian *ad litem* to investigate all matters alleged in the applicant's statement and all circumstances relevant to the proposed adoption with a view to safeguarding the interests of the infant before the Court, and to make a report in Form 5 to the Court for that purpose; and a notice that such report has been made shall be served by the guardian *ad litem* on the applicant.

Duty of
guardian.

10. The applicant shall obtain an appointment for the hearing of the application within fourteen days after being served with a notice by the guardian *ad litem* that he has made his report to the Court. If within twenty-one days of the service of the notice on the applicant no appointment is obtained by the applicant, the guardian *ad litem* shall obtain an appointment as soon as practicable for the hearing of the application.

Hearing.

11. When an appointment for the hearing of the application has been obtained the applicant, or, if the guardian *ad litem* obtains such appointment, the guardian *ad litem*, shall serve a notice in Form 6 on every person or body whose consent

Service of
notice.

to the adoption order is required under section 4 of the Act.

- Objections. 12. On the hearing of the application any person on whom notice is required to be served under Rule 11 of these Rules may appear before the judge to show cause why an adoption order should not be made.
- Transmission of order. 13. On the making of an adoption order or of an interim order the Registrar General shall send a sealed copy of the order to the applicant within seven days after the order has been passed and entered.
- Duplicates. 14. No duplicate or copy of an adoption order or interim order shall be given to or served upon any person other than the applicant except by order of the judge.
- Notification of absent parties. 15. When an adoption order has been made or refused or an interim order made the Registrar General shall notify all parties who were not present when the order was made or refused.
- Further hearing. 16. Where the determination of an application is postponed and an interim order made the applicant shall, at least two months before the expiration of the period specified in the interim order, obtain an appointment for the further hearing of the application, and shall serve a notice in Form 7 on every person on whom notice is required to be served under Rule 11 of these Rules.
- Appointment by guardian. 17. If no appointment is obtained by the applicant as required by Rule 16 of these Rules, the guardian *ad litem* shall obtain an appointment as soon as practicable for the further hearing of the application.
- Mode of service. 18. Any document under these Rules may be served -
- (a) on an individual by delivering it to him personally, or by leaving it with some person for him at his last known or usual place of abode, or by sending it to him by registered post at that place;

(b) on any body of persons by delivering it or sending it by registered post to the office of the body.

19. Subject to these Rules, the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court shall apply to proceedings under the Families and Children Act. Practice and procedure.

20. The following fees are prescribed for payment to the Registrar General under section 12 (6) of the Act: Fees and costs.

(a) searching index of Adopted Children Register - twenty-five cents for every hour or part of an hour;

(b) certified copy of registered record of adoption - fifty cents.

21. The table of fees and costs set forth in Appendix M to the Rules of the Supreme Court shall apply to the taxation of costs under the Families and Children Act. Taxation of Costs.

FIRST SCHEDULE
FORM 1
Rule 3

**ORIGINATING SUMMONS ON APPLICATION FOR AN
ADOPTION ORDER**

2 . No.

In the Supreme Court.

In the Matter of (1)
an infant,

AND

In the Matter of the Families and Children Act.

Let _____ of _____ within seven days after service of this summons, inclusive of the day of such service, cause an appearance to be entered for him to this summons which is issued upon the application of _____

of _____ for an order:

- (1) That a guardian *ad litem* may be appointed for the purpose of safeguarding interests of the said infant; (2)
- (2) That the applicant be authorised to adopt the said infant;
- (3) That the costs of this application be provided for.

Dated the _____ day of _____ 2

This summons was taken out by _____
for the above-named.

Attorney-at-Law

The respondent may appear hereto by entering appearance either personally or by Attorney-at-Law at the Registrar General's Office, Belize City.

If the respondent does not enter appearance within the time and at the place above-mentioned, such order will be made and proceedings taken as the judge may think just and expedient.

- (1) *Enter the name and surname which the infant is to bear after adoption.*
 - (2) *Enter the present name and address of the infant.*
-

FORM 2***Rule 6*****UNDERTAKING TO PAY COSTS*****(Heading as in Form 1)***

In consideration of your acting as the guardian *ad litem* of A. B. an infant I the undersigned _____ Attorney-at-Law (1) hereby personally undertake and agree that as such guardian *ad litem* for the said A. B. you will duly receive and be paid all costs, charges and expenses which may be earned or incurred by you in relation to such guardianship or the duties thereof.

Dated the _____ day of _____ 2 .

Signed (2)

To

- (1) *Delete if no Attorney-at-Law is acting for the applicant.*
- (2) *The undertaking should be signed by the Attorney-at-law acting for the applicant, or by the applicant if he is acting in person.*

FORM 3

Rule 7

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR AN
ADOPTION ORDER (1)**
(Heading as in Form 1)

- 1. I the undersigned C. D. /We the undersigned C. D. and E. D. desire to adopt A. B.(2), an infant, under the Families and Children Act.
- 2. I am/We are resident and domiciled in Belize.
- 3. I am unmarried/a widow/a widower/
I am married to E. D. of _____ / We are married to each other and are the persons to whom the attached marriage certificate (or other evidence of marriage) relates.

I _____, Applicant, was born on the _____
and I _____, Applicant, was born on the _____

- 4. The infant is of the _____ sex and unmarried.
He/she/was born on the _____ 2 _____, and is the person to whom the attached birth certificate (3) relates/was born on or about the _____, 2 _____, in _____
He/she is a citizen of Belize and is resident in Belize. He/she is related to me _____ Applicant, and is my _____
_____/is not related to me/us/Applicant(s).

- 5. The infant is the child/adopted child (4) of F. B. of _____ whose last known address was _____
/deceased and G. B. of _____ whose last known address was _____ /deceased.

6. L. M. is liable by virtue of an order or agreement to contribute to the maintenance of the infant. (To be inserted only where child is illegitimate).
7. I/We attach a document/documents signifying the consent of the said (5) to the making of an adoption order upon my/our application.
8. I/We request the judge to dispense with the consent of the said (6) on the following grounds:
9. The infant was received into my/our care and possession on the day of _____, 2 from _____ of _____ and has been continuously in my/our care and possession since that date.
10. A certificate as to physical and mental health of the infant, signed by _____, a registered medical practitioner, on the day of _____, 2 is attached.
11. I/We have not received or agreed to receive, and no person has made or given or agreed to make or give to me/us, any payment or other reward in consideration of the adoption (except as follows: _____).
12. I have not made/Neither of us has made a previous application for an adoption order in respect of the same or any other infant to any court (except an application made to the _____ Court at _____ on the _____ day of _____ 2 which was dealt with as follows:).
13. For the purposes of my/our application reference may be made to N.O. of (7).
14. Further particulars of myself/ourselves are set out in the annex to this statement; and

15. If an adoption order is made in pursuance of my/our application, it is proposed that the infant shall be known as

Dated this day of 2 .

Usual signature of applicant

- (1) This statement must be verified by affidavit, to which the statement, marriage certificate and other documents referred to in the statement should be exhibited.
- (2) Enter the first name(s) and surname as shown in the birth certificate referred to in paragraph 4, if available; otherwise enter name(s) and surname by which the infant was known before being placed for adoption.
- (3) If the infant has previously been adopted, a certified copy of the entry in the Adoption Register should be attached and not a copy of the original entry in the Register of Birth; and the particulars given in paragraph 5 should relate to the parent or parents by adoption and not to the natural parent or parents.
- (4) If the infant is illegitimate the father's name should not be given in this entry. But see paragraph 6 above.
- (5) The names to be entered here are those of persons named in paragraphs 5 and 6, and (where the application is made by one of two spouses alone) of the spouse of the applicant.
- (6) This paragraph should be completed with the name of any of the persons mentioned in the previous note who has not signified his or her consent.

- (7) The name of one or more referees should be given.

FORM 4

Rule 7

**CONSENT TO AN ADOPTION ORDER IN RESPECT OF AN
INFANT NAMED A. B.(1)**

Whereas an application is to be made by _____, and
whereas the said A. B. (hereinafter called the infant) is not less than six weeks
old having been born in _____ on the _____ day of
2 _____, and is the person to whom the birth certificate now produced and
shown to me, marked "A", relates, I the undersigned
_____ of _____ being the mother/
father/a guardian/a person liable by virtue of any order or agreement to contribute
to the maintenance of the infant/the spouse of the said C. D. (2) hereby states
as follows:

- (1) I understand that the effect of an adoption order is to deprive a parent or guardian of all rights in respect of the maintenance and upbringing of the infant.
- (2) I understand that, when the applicant for an adoption order in respect of the said infant is heard by the judge, this document may be used as evidence of my consent to the making of the order unless I have notified the Court that I no longer consent.(3)
- (3) I hereby consent to the making of an adoption order in pursuance of the said application (on condition that the religious persuasion in which the infant is brought up is _____) (4)

Signature

Signed at _____ on the _____ day of _____ 2 by the said
(who satisfied me that she fully understood the nature
of the foregoing statement and was prepared to surrender her child for adoption)
(5).

Before me

(Signature)
(Address)
(Description)

- (1) Insert name as known to the consenting party.
- (2) Delete those descriptions which do not apply.
- (3) The document should be attested before a Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner of Oaths so as to be admissible in evidence.
- (4) Delete words in brackets if the consenting party does not desire conditions as to religious upbringing.
- (5) Delete words in brackets except where the consenting party is the mother of the infant.

FORM 5**Rule 9****REPORT OF GUARDIAN *ad litem* TO THE COURT**

- (1) The applicant is the wife/husband of _____
(the applicants have been married for _____ years) and
the wife/husband of the applicant consents to the application.
- (2) The applicant has _____ other children (including adopted
children)
Names _____ Age _____ Sex of children.
- (3) The applicant's house contains _____ living rooms and
bedrooms and the condition of the house is (State condition).
- (4) The applicant is _____ (state profession or employment) and earns
annually _____ dollars and is possessed of _____ (state
property).
- (5) The applicant and his family have/have not suffered from tuberculosis,
epilepsy, mental illness or any serious illness.
- (6) The person specified in the applicant's statement as a person to whom
reference may be made is/is not a responsible person and recommends/
does not recommend the applicant without reservation.
- (7) The applicant understands that an adoption order is irrevocable and
that the order if made will render him/them responsible for the
maintenance and upbringing of the infant.
- (8) The infant has/has not a right or interest in property, viz. (State nature
and value of property).

- (9) The infant is/is not old enough to understand the effect of an adoption order and wishes/does not wish the order to be made.

Signature of Guardian *ad litem*

FORM 6**Rule 11**

**NOTICE OF HEARING OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN
ADOPTION ORDER IN RESPECT OF AN INFANT
NAMED A. B.**

To

Whereas an application has been made by _____ (name of applicant) and whereas _____ is the guardian *ad litem* of the said infant.

TAKE NOTICE (a) That the said application will be heard at the Supreme Court, Belize City on the _____ day of _____ 2 at the hour of _____ in the _____ noon and that you may appear to show cause why the said order should not be made:

(b) that if you do not consent to the making of the order you should notify the Registrar General on or before the _____ day of _____ 2 in order that a date and time may be fixed for you to attend and show cause why the adoption order should not be made.

The form attached may be used for the purpose-

To the Registrar General

I have received notice of the hearing of the application for an adoption order in respect of A. B., an infant.

Delete (a) or (b)

(a) I consent to the making of the order.

- (b) I do not consent to the making of the order and I wish a date and time to be fixed for my attendance when I may state my case.

Signature and address

FORM 7**Rule 16**

**NOTICE OF FURTHER HEARING OF APPLICATION FOR AN
ADOPTION ORDER IN RESPECT OF AN INFANT
NAMED A. B. (1)**

To

Whereas an application has been made by _____ of _____
and whereas _____ of _____
is the guardian *ad litem* of the said infant, and whereas
the determination of the said application was postponed and an interim order
was made by the judge on the _____ day of _____ 2 ;

TAKE NOTICE (a) that the said application will be further heard
before the judge at the Supreme Court, Belize City on the _____ day of
_____ 2 at the hour of _____ in the _____ noon and that
you may appear to show cause why the adoption order should not be made;

(b) that if you do not consent to the making of the order you should
notify the Registrar General on or before the _____ day of _____ 2 in
order that a date and time may be fixed for you, to attend and show cause why
the adoption order should not be made.

The form attached may be used for this purpose.

To the Registrar General,

I have received notice of the further hearing of the application for an adoption
order in respect of A. B. an infant.

Delete (a) or (b)

- (a) I consent to the making of the order.

- (b) I do not consent to the making of the order and I wish a date and time to be fixed for my attendance when I may state my case.

Signature and address

Date

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