

Q Does the Reporting Officer attend the Adoption Hearing?

Not usually.

Q Does the Reporting Officer do anything else?

If the Reporting Officer feels there are any other matters which should be investigated or if the birth parent has decided not to consent to the adoption he/she will inform the Court and a Children's Guardian may be appointed.

Further Information

- **For legal advice and information – contact a solicitor on the Law Society's children panel, CAB or legal advice centre.**

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Fact Sheet

Grandparents
and the
Reporting Officer



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A grandparent may encounter the Reporting Officer if their grandchild is the subject of an application for a freeing for adoption or adoption order. When an application is made to free a child for adoption (by a local authority) or to adopt a child (by a married couple or single person), if the court knows, or expects, that the natural parent(s) will agree to the order the court appoints a Reporting Officer. This person is an officer of C.A.F.C.A.S.S. whose duty is to ensure that the parent(s) understands that adoption severs all natural ties to a child and is irrevocable, and that the parent(s), agreement to adoption is freely given. A Reporting Officer will not usually contact the grandparents.

This applies equally to a step-parent adoption as it does to any other adoption.

Q What does a Reporting Officer do?

The Reporting Officer visits each parent and talks to them about the adoption. The Reporting Officer must be satisfied that the birth parent fully understands the effect of a freeing for Adoption Order and that their consent to the making of an order is given freely and unconditionally. The Reporting Officer will ask the birth parent to check the details on the child's birth certificate and then sign an official consent form from the Court.

Q What is a Reporting Officer?

A Reporting Officer (RO) is an independent person appointed by the Court.

They are usually experienced social workers but they will have no previous involvement with the child or family involved in the adoption.

Services, (C.A.F.C.A.S.S.) An independent body with offices throughout England and Wales.

When a Court needs to appoint a Reporting Officer they contact the local Manager who nominates a Reporting Officer for appointment by the court.

Q Does the Reporting Officer interview the child or its adoptive parents?

No.

Q Who does the Reporting Officer work for?

The Reporting Officer will be employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support

Q When is a Reporting Officer appointed?

If a birth parent agrees that their child should be free for adoption, or should be adopted, a Reporting Officer is appointed.

Q Does the Reporting Officer provide a report?

Yes, a short report outlining the content of the interview is sent to the Court with the birth certificate and consent form.