

COURSE TITLE: ADOPTION - A LEGAL AND PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Trainer:

Gillian Geddes is a barrister of eleven years' call and an experienced practitioner in family law. Gillian has practised at all levels of Court up to the Court of Appeal and has been an in-house lawyer to two local authorities.

Sheila Draper qualified as a social worker in the mid 1980s and worked as a senior practitioner in fostering and adoption. She later managed a large team responsible for children in care, child protection work and permanency planning.

Since 2003 Sheila has been working as an independent social worker involved in assessments of adoptive parents, special guardians and step-parent adoptions.

Aims and Objectives:

The Adoption process is set within mainstream practice in work with children and their families, but has its own additional legal framework and processes.

The course aims to provide a comprehensive outline of the legal framework in which the process of Adoption is set, including the Adoption Acts which have come into force since the implementation of the Children Act 1989. From this legal framework, the course goes on to outline the stages between Court and final placement, together with guidance for best practice.

Duration of course:

One whole day (0930 to 1630 with breaks)

Numbers:

Up to a maximum of twenty five participants

Target Audience:

The course is designed to meet the needs of social work practitioners in Children's Services, who may wish to broaden or update their knowledge of this area of practice, in both the Court process and practice issues in Adoption.

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Teaching Method:

The course is delivered in two parts and uses Powerpoint presentation together with a 'rolling case study'. The morning session is led by Gillian Geddes, who will outline the legal process from the instigation of care proceedings to the making of an Adoption Order.

The afternoon session is led by Sheila Draper and considers the process after Court of matching child and adopters, including birth family contact and issues surrounding identity and adjustment, with reference to the case study

Course Synopsis:

- The legal framework in Adoption, including the Children and Adoption Act 2006
- Interface with the Children Act 1989
- Adoption Orders
- Special Guardianship
- The matching process and Adoption Panels
- The role of Adoption Agencies
- Birth family contact
- Issues of identity and adjustment for adopted children