

Adoption of Children Act 1968, Tasmania

1968 – 1988

URL: http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/tas/num_act/aoca196833o1968237/

Details

The Adoption of Children Act 1968 made it mandatory for an assessment of potential adoptive parents to be undertaken. The Act also made it illegal for private individuals or unauthorised organisations to organise adoptions. It became mandatory for the government to approve welfare agencies that organised adoptions. The only approved agency in Tasmania was the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau (which became Centacare in 1977).

With the implementation of the *Adoption of Children Act* 1968 in Tasmania, practice changed significantly. Under the previous legislation, the assessment of adoptive applicants had not been required. After the passage of the 1968 Act, in most cases, where a general consent was signed, the Director of the Social Welfare Department became the guardian under section 35 of the *Child Welfare Act* 1960. This remained in place until the Adoption Order was finalised. In extremely rare cases, where the adoption was of a 'known child', this transfer of guardianship may not have occurred.

Section 11 of the 1968 legislation enacted the principle that the welfare and interests of the child must be the paramount consideration in approving adoptions.

The Act also made private adoptions illegal. It formalised the transfer of responsibility for adoptions to the Department of Social Welfare and authorised adoption agencies. There was only ever one of these, the Catholic Private Adoption Agency, run by the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau, later Centacare.

More info

Chronology

- Adoption of Children Act 1920, Tasmania (1920 - 1968)
 - **Adoption of Children Act 1968, Tasmania (1968 – 1988)**
 - Adoption of Children Act 1988, Tasmania (1988 - current)

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Catholic Family Welfare Bureau \(Tasmania\) \(1959 - 1977\)](#)

Is amended by

- [Age of Majority Act 1973, Tasmania \(1973 - current\)](#)

Related Concepts

- [Adoption in Tasmania \(c. 1920 - current\)](#)

Date: 1968 - 1988

Resources

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), [To Remove and Protect](#), 2014

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/adoption-of-children-act-1968/>