

# Draft Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations

## Response to the Scottish Government's consultation

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The Equality Network is a network of around one thousand lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals and organisations in Scotland, working for LGBT equality. The Equality Network's policy work is based on consultation with LGBT communities across Scotland, and reflects the concerns that LGBT people have raised with us.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on the draft Adoption Agencies (Scotland) Regulations.

## Schedule 1 Part II

Our only comments relate to Part II of Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

Paragraph 21 refers to the marital status and date and place of marriage of the child's parents or guardian. In our view this should be amended to also refer to civil partnership status and date and place of registration of civil partnership. It is certainly possible that the parent(s) (as defined in paragraph 19) of a child to be adopted, or alternatively the guardian of the child, will be in a civil partnership, and we cannot see any reason why civil partnership should not be treated in the same way here as marriage.

As a general principle, new legislation should be written to apply equally to marriage and to civil partnership, and we welcome that that has been done elsewhere in the Regulations.