

# Family Perinatal Support and Adoption Bill

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**B I L L**

TO

Require the Secretary of State to provide appropriate perinatal support to any family expecting a child who will be born on to the child protection register and for whom an adoption plan has not been made at the moment the child is entered on to the register; to require that a decision be made not later than one year after the child's birth as to whether or not such a child will be adopted; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Family perinatal support**

The Secretary of State must, within three months of the passing of this Act, make regulations—

- (a) making perinatal talking therapies available to a person (“the carer”) who will be responsible for the care of an unborn child following his or her birth, where that child will be born with a child protection plan, with no plan made to take the child into local authority care; 5
- (b) making provision that the carer is offered appropriate talking therapies, to begin before the birth of the child, and
- (c) making provision that a child protection review conference to reach a decision about the ongoing care of the child be held no later than the child's six month of age and that this conference take into account medical assessments of carer/infant attunement in respect of— 10
  - (i) the talking therapy received,
  - (ii) progress made, and 15
  - (iii) the extent to which the skills are used in relation to the infant.

**2 Adoption**

The Secretary of State must, within three months of the passing of this Act, make regulations providing that if a child protection review conference determines that the carer has not made sufficient progress, the child should be placed for adoption before its first birthday. 20

### 3 Regulations

- (1) Any power to make regulations under this Act is exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this Act is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament. 5

### 4 Interpretation

In this Act –

“perinatal talking therapies” means parent-infant psychotherapy, psychodynamic therapies, cognitive behavioural therapy and counselling; 10

“carer/infant attunement” means the ability of a carer to react to an infant’s emotions attentively and the consequential ability of infants to recognize and regulate their own feelings.

### 5 Financial provisions

*There is to be paid out of money provided by Parliament – 15*

- (a) *any expenditure incurred under or by virtue of this Act by the Secretary of State, and*
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable under any other Act out of money so provided.*

### 6 Short title, commencement and extent 20

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Family Perinatal Support and Adoption Act 2013.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 2 months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales.

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## B I L L

To require the Secretary of State to provide appropriate perinatal support to any family expecting a child who will be born on to the child protection register and for whom an adoption plan has not been made at the moment the child is entered on to the register; to require that a decision be made not later than one year after the child's birth as to whether or not such a child will be adopted; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Andrea Leadsom,  
Fiona Bruce, Harriett Baldwin,  
Jim Shannon, Mr Frank Field,  
Mr Graham Allen, Andrew Selous,  
Damian Hinds, Tim Loughton,  
Meg Munn, Mr Gary Streeter  
and Robert Halfon.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 7 November 2012.*

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