

ADOPTION IN EASTERN NIGERIA

Since 1967, the Eastern Region of Nigeria has been divided into three states, viz., East-Central (formerly Central-Eastern), South-Eastern and Rivers States, the respective capitals of which are Emugu, Calabar and Port Harcourt. For those three states of the former Eastern Region, Eastern Nigeria Law No. 12 of 1965 appears still to be in effect as the law governing the adoption of children.^{1/}

An application for an adoption order may be made to the High Court or at the option of the applicant to a Magistrate's Court within the jurisdiction in which the applicant or the infant resides at the date of application.^{2/} An adoption order may be made authorizing the adoption of a juvenile by the father alone,^{3/} and "father" in relation to an illegitimate child means the natural father.^{4/}

Where the applicant or, in the case of a joint application, either of the applicants is not a citizen of Nigeria, the Court shall refuse the application.^{5/} If the person to be adopted is a juvenile, both the

^{1/} Eastern Nigeria Law No. 12 of 1965, Supplement to Eastern Nigeria Gazette No. 43 of 6/3/65, pp. A71-A80.

^{2/} Ibid., Sec. 11(1).

^{3/} Ibid., Sec. 3.

^{4/} Ibid., Sec. 2.

^{5/} Ibid., Sec. 9.

applicant and the juvenile must reside within the jurisdiction of the court to which application is made.^{6/}

6/ Ibid., Sec. 4(4).

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July 1974

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7/9/74