

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KENYA AT NAIROBI

ADOPTION CAUSE NO 116 OF 2015

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHILDREN ACT

AND

IN THE MATTER OF BABY S T (MINOR)

M N K.....APPLICANT

JUDGMENT

M N K (“the Applicant”) seeks by her application to be allowed by this Court to adopt Baby S T (hereafter “the child”). The Applicant has never been formally married. She is a business lady. The Applicant does not have any children. Thus, she wishes to adopt a child.

The child who is the subject of the present adoption proceedings is presumed to have been born on 13th August 2013. She was found at [particulars withheld] on 14th August 2013. A report on the matter of the abandoned child was made to Muthangari Police Station and the same was recorded vide OB 2/14/8/2013. The child was then placed with New Life Home Trust on 16th August 2013 for care and protection. The Senior Resident Magistrate Children's Court sitting at Nairobi, in accordance with **Section 119** of the **Children Act**, committed the child to New Life Home Trust on 1st November 2013. The child was placed in the custody of the Applicant on 21st August 2014 for mandatory bonding prior to adoption. The child has since then been in the continuous custody and care of the Applicant. According to correspondence from relevant police authorities at Muthangari Police Station, no one has come forward to claim the child. A report to that effect has been filed in Court. Thus, this Court dispenses with the consent of the child’s biological parents to the proposed adoption of the child by the Applicant. The adoption society, KKPI issued a certificate declaring the child free for adoption pursuant to **Section 156(1)** of the **Children Act**. The said freeing certificate is no. 367.

In an application filed on 5th May 2015, the Applicant sought among others, orders from this Court that L M P be appointed as the child’s guardian ad litem, and that the Director of Children Services be ordered to investigate the suitability of the Applicant to adopt the child and submit a report. The Applicant also sought to have the Court appoint T W K, her sister, as the child’s legal guardian. She further sought for an order that upon adoption the child be known as M W. On 5th June 2015, this Court issued an order appointing L M P as the child’s guardian ad litem, and further directing the guardian ad litem and the Director of Children Services to file their respective reports in Court.

Pursuant to **Section 156(1)** of the **Children Act**, before this matter came up for hearing, KKPI, the relevant adoption society, prepared and filed in Court a favourable report in respect of the proposed adoption of the child by the Applicant. Another report in respect of the proposed adoption of the child by the Applicant was prepared by the Director of Children Services, and this report was similarly in favour of the proposed adoption. The guardian ad litem, L M P, also filed the statutory report made under **Section 160(2)** of the **Children Act** in which she noted that the proposed adoption of the child by the Applicant would be in the best interests of the child.

All the statutory reports that have been filed in respect of the proposed adoption of the child by the Applicant have recommended that this Court allows the Applicant to adopt the child. This Court has evaluated the facts of this adoption. This is a local adoption. It is evident that the Applicant has fulfilled all the legal requirements relative to the adoption of the child. The consent of the biological parents of the child was dispensed with since the child was abandoned and her biological parents could not be traced to give their consent. This Court has satisfied itself that the Applicant is qualified and able to take care of the child. The home visits by the guardian ad litem, the Adoption Society and the Director of the Children Services established that the Applicant has the financial and emotional capability to provide for the upkeep and education of the child. This Court observed the Applicant with the child in Court and it was evident that in the period that the Applicant has had the custody of the child, the child has bonded well with her. The child considers the Applicant to be her mother.

On the basis of a careful examination of the documents presented before me as well as the observations made therein, this Court has formed the opinion that it would be in the best interest of the child to be adopted by the Applicant. Hence, this Court allows the Applicant's application. The Applicant, M N K, is hereby allowed to adopt Baby S T. Henceforth, the child shall be known as M W. Her date of birth shall be 13th August 2013. Her place of birth shall be Nairobi-Kenya.

She is presumed to be a citizen of Kenya by birth. T W K, the Applicant's sister shall be the legal guardian of the child should such eventuality arise. This Court directs the Registrar General to duly enter this order in the Adoption Register. The guardian ad litem is hereby discharged. It is so ordered.

DELIVERED AND SIGNED IN OPEN COURT AT NAIROBI THIS 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016

M. W. MUIGAI

JUDGE

In the presence of:-