



**In re SM (Baby) (Adoption Cause E234 of 2024)
[2025] KEHC 3675 (KLR) (Family) (24 March 2025) (Judgment)**

Neutral citation: [2025] KEHC 3675 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HIGH COURT AT NAIROBI (MILIMANI LAW COURTS)
FAMILY
ADOPTION CAUSE E234 OF 2024
HK CHEMITEI, J
MARCH 24, 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF

**NKM 1ST APPLICANT
CWI 2ND APPLICANT**

JUDGMENT

1. Before this Court is the amended originating summons dated 16th January, 2025. The Applicants NKM and CWI are seeking to be authorized to adopt Baby SM hereinafter referred to as the child and upon adoption, the child is to be known as SMK. WGI was appointed as the child’s legal guardian upon granting of the adoption orders.
2. The Applicants are married and are Kenyans as is evidenced by copies of their marriage certificate and national identity cards. NKM is employed and CWI is self-employed. Their financial capability and ability to provide for the child is evidenced by their payslip, MPESA statement, bank statement and certificate of plot allocation. Their health status is good as is evidenced by their medical reports. They have no criminal record as is evidenced by their police clearance certificates issued by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations. They have indicated that they are motivated to adopt the child because they love the child who is the only child of their late sister and they want to give him the love and the rights he deserves as a child.
3. The report from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection State Department of Social Security and Protection Department of Children’s Services – Nairobi County dated 19th November, 2024 indicates that the child is male and 7 years old having been born on 27th September, 2017. His biological mother died on 12th May, 2021 as is evidenced vide death certificate number 03XXXX and his grandmother who has become his caregiver also died on 4th July, 2023. The child was declared free for adoption on 11th October, 2024 by Buckner Kenya Adoption Services vide freeing Certificate Serial Number XXXX.



4. There is consistent message that there is the urge for NKM and CWI to adopt the child. They love the child who is the only child of their late sister and they want to give him the love and the rights he deserves as a child.
5. The child is a Kenyan citizen by virtue of Article 14 (1) which provides that a person is a citizen by birth if on the day of the person's birth, whether or not the person is born in Kenya, either the mother or father of the person is a citizen.
6. In light of the best interests of the child principle provided for under Article 53 (2) of *the Constitution* of Kenya, 2010. Sections 8 (1), (2) and (3) of the Children's *Act No. 29 of 2022* and the 1st Schedule of the Children's *Act No. 29 of 2022*, this Court has an obligation to prioritize the child's best interests in making decisions touching on her.
 - a. Article 53 of *the Constitution*, 2010 states that a child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child.
 - b. Sections 8 (1), (2) and (3) of the Children's *Act No. 29 of 2022* provides as follows;
 1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies:-
 - a. The best interests of the child shall be the primary consideration;
 - b. The best interests of the child shall include, but shall not be limited to the considerations set out in the First Schedule.
 2. All judicial and administrative institutions, and all persons acting in the name of such institutions, when exercising any powers conferred under this Act or any other written law, shall treat the interests of the child as the first and paramount consideration to the extent that this is consistent with adopting a course of action calculated to :-
 - a. safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of the child;
 - b. conserve and promote the welfare of the child; and
 - c. secure for the child such guidance and correction as is necessary for the welfare of the child, and in public interest.
 3. In any matters affecting a child, the child shall be accorded an opportunity to express their opinion, and that opinion shall be taken into account in appropriate cases, having regard to the child's age and degree of maturity.
 - c. The First Schedule as provided for under Section 8 (1) of the Children's *Act No. 29 of 2022* provides best interests considerations to be as follows:
 1. The age, maturity, stage of development, gender, background and any other relevant characteristics of the child.
 2. Distinct special needs (if any) arising from chronic ailment or disability.
 3. The relationship of the child with the child's parent (s) and/or guardian(s) and any other persons who may significantly affect the child's welfare.



4. The preference of the child, if old enough to express a meaningful preference.
5. The duration and adequacy of the child's current living arrangements and the desirability of maintaining continuity.
6. The stability of any proposed living arrangements for the child.
7. The motivation of the parties involved and their capacities to give the child love, affection and guidance.
8. The child's adjustment to the child's present home, school and community.
9. The capacity of each parent or guardian to allow and encourage frequent and continuing contact between the child and the other parent and/ or guardian(s), including physical access.
10. The capacity of each parent and/or guardian(s) to cooperate or to learn to cooperate in child care.
11. Methods for assisting parental and/or guardian cooperation and resolving disputes and each parent's/guardian's willingness to use those methods.
12. The effect of the child if one parent/ guardian has sole authority over the child's upbringing.
13. The existence of domestic abuse between the parents/guardian(s), in the past or currently, and how that abuse affects the emotional stability and physical safety of the child.
14. The existence of any history of child abuse by a parent and/ or guardian (s); or anyone residing in the same dwelling as the child.
15. Where the child is under one year of age, whether the child is being breast - fed.
16. The existence of a parent's(s) or guardian's (s) conviction for a sex offense or a sexually violent offense under the *Sexual Offences Act*.
17. Where there is a person residing with a parent or guardian, whether that person; -
 - a. Has been convicted of a crime under this Act, the Sexual Offences Act, the *Penal Code* or any other legislation.
 - b. Has been adjudicated of a juvenile offence which, if the person had been an adult at the time of the offence, the person would have been convicted of a felony.
18. Any other factor which may have a direct or indirect effect on the physical and psychological well -being of the child.



7. The report from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection State Department of Social Security and Protection Department of Children's Services – Nairobi County, the report from Buckner Kenya Adoption Services, the guardian ad litem and the proposed legal guardian indicate that the child will be well taken care of in the care and custody of the adoptive parents.
8. I find that this adoption gives the child a chance a stable family and the adoptive parents a chance at having a child of their own.
9. In the circumstances, I allow the amended originating summons dated 16th January, 2025 and make the following orders:
 - a. The Applicants NKM and CWI are authorized to adopt the child known as Baby SMM.
 - b. Upon adoption, the child shall be known as SMK.
 - c. The child is declared to be a Kenyan citizen by birth and is entitled to all rights and benefits under *the Constitution* of Kenya, 2010 and all applicable laws.
 - d. WGI is appointed as the legal guardian of the child.
 - e. The Registrar General is directed to make the relevant entries in the Adopted Children's Register in respect of the child.
 - f. The Registrar of births and deaths is directed to issue a birth certificate in respect of the child's new name.
 - g. Scholastica Mune Kivuva is discharged as guardian ad Litem.

DATED SIGNED AND DELIVERED AT NAIROBI VIA VIDEO LINK THIS 24TH DAY OF MARCH 2025.

H K CHEMITEI

JUDGE

