



Child Trust Fund

Information on Child Trust Fund accounts

**managed by the Official Solicitor
and the Accountant of Court**

Contents

What are Child Trust Fund accounts?	1
What does the Official Solicitor do?	1
What is Parental Responsibility?	2
What decisions will the Official Solicitor take?	2
Further Deposits	3
Will the child be consulted?	3
Complaints	4
Contact Details	5
Other important addresses	6

What are Child Trust Fund accounts?

Child Trust Fund (CTF) accounts are new savings and investment accounts for children. Children born on or after 1st September 2002, who are living in the UK and for whom child benefit has been awarded will receive £250 to start their account. Children for whom child benefit has not previously been claimed will receive £500. The account belongs to the child and can't be touched until they turn 18, so that children have some money behind them to start their adult life.

What does the Official Solicitor do?

The Official Solicitor has a number of functions, which include assisting young people under 18 in some legal matters where there is no other suitable person or agency able to assist them. The Official Solicitor manages the CTF accounts of looked after children where there is no one (or no-one appropriate) with Parental Responsibility in England and Wales. The Official Solicitor (Northern Ireland) and the Accountant of Court (Scotland) manage the CTF accounts for looked after children in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

What is Parental Responsibility?

Parental Responsibility (PR) describes the legal relationship between parents (and in some circumstances other adults) and their child(ren). Mothers, and fathers who are married to the mother of their child(ren) - automatically have PR. Unmarried fathers can obtain PR by a court Order or by entering into an agreement with the mother. Other people may get PR, for example, by a residence order or if appointed by the court to be the child's guardian.

What decisions will the Official Solicitor take?

HM Revenue & Customs will give the Official Solicitor the details of the children whose CTF accounts the Official Solicitor will manage. Having taken over the management of a CTF account, the Official Solicitor will undertake an initial review of the account to ensure that it is in a satisfactory place. The Official Solicitor will then review the account at least annually to make sure it is performing well. The Official Solicitor will always act in the best interests of the child and will take into account any appropriate views of the child, its carer or the local authority.

The Official Solicitor may transfer the account to another provider or another product if he considers this to be in the best interests of the child.

Further Deposits

Up to £1200 each year may be paid into CTF accounts by the child, a parent, or any other person. These deposits benefit from the arrangements that the funds are free of income tax and capital gains tax, but as with the deposits made by the State, there can usually be no withdrawals until the child is 18, Any such further deposits must be sent to the CTF provider. The Official Solicitor/Accountant of Court will not accept any payments.

Will the child be consulted?

The Official Solicitor will write to the child to tell them the name of the account provider and the type of account held for their CTF account. The child will also be told the value of the fund.. The child's views on how and where the account should be held will be taken into account where possible and reasonable, including on cultural, ethical or other grounds. When the child is 16, they become responsible for managing their own account. However, money will not be released until the child reaches 18.

Complaints

The Official Solicitor for England and Wales, the Official Solicitor for Northern Ireland, and the Accountant of Court, have published procedures for dealing with complaints. The Child Trust Fund Office, who administer the Child Trust Fund generally also have a published scheme for dealing with complaints.

If you are not satisfied with the service you have received by the Official Solicitor or the Accountant of Court, you should contact them. Contact details are set out in this booklet.

If you are not satisfied with the service you have received from the Child Trust Fund Office or from any provider, you should contact them directly.

Contact Details

Official Solicitor

Official Solicitor and Public Trustee Office
81 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1DD

T: 020 7911 7155 (Child Trust Fund Development Manager)

T: 020 7911 7131/7127 (General Enquiry Line)

F: 020 7911 7105

website: www.offsol.demon.co.uk

Official Solicitor for Northern Ireland

Brenda Donnelly
Royal Courts of Justice
Belfast
BT1 3JF

Tel: 028 9072 4722

Fax: 028 9031 3793

bdonnelly.rcj@courtsni.gov.uk

Accountant of Court

Rosemary Wawrzyniak
Deputy Accountant of Court
The Accountant of Court's Office
Supreme Court
Parliament House
Edinburgh
EH1 1RQ

Tel: 0131 225 2595

rwawrzyniak@scotcourts.gov.uk

Other important addresses**Child Trust Fund Office**

HM Revenue & Customs
Waterview Park
Mandarin Way
Washington,
NE38 8QG

Telephone: 0845 302 1470 (the helpline is open between the hours of 08:00 and 20:00)

From abroad: 00 44 1355 359002

e-mail: childtrustfundoffice@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

(for general enquiries about the Child Trust Fund only)

Further general information on Child Trust Funds is available on the Child Trust Fund website: www.childtrustfund.gov.uk