

## THE IRM CYMRU PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

### ARE YOU APPLYING TO BE APPROVED AS AN ADOPTIVE PARENT? OR AN APPROVED ADOPTIVE PARENT?

Have you been told the adoption agency is:

- 1) minded not to approve you; or
- 2) terminate your approval

Then you have what is called a *qualifying determination*

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you don't agree:-

You can apply to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM) for a review of the proposed decision; or Apply to your agency and ask them to re-consider

Can I do both? – No.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS THE IRM?

It is not an appeals process.

It is a panel that is independent of your agency made up of people with personal and professional experience of adoption, it will look 'afresh' at the information and make a recommendation to your agency.

### DOES THE AGENCY HAVE TO ACCEPT THE IRM PANEL RECOMMENDATION?

No – it looks at all the information and comes to a final decision.

### DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR THE IRM PANEL?

No – your adoption agency meets the cost of this.

### WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO APPLY TO THE IRM?

You need to send the reasons why you disagree with the proposed decision within 40 days of the date of your adoption agency letter. This is important as the IRM cannot consider applications after that date.

### CAN I DISCUSS THIS? OR GET MORE INFORMATION?

Yes – please contact us.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR IRM CYMRU

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