

right to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, unless this is contrary to the child's best interests. Where separation results from state action such as detention, imprisonment, deportation or exile, the state shall provide essential information about the absent family member's whereabouts to the child or another member of the child's family on request, unless to do so would be detrimental to the child's wellbeing.

### FURTHER READING

- Bainham, A, *Children: the Modern Law* (Family Law, 1998)
- Cretney, S and Masson, J, *Principles of Family Law* (Sweet and Maxwell, 2003)
- Department of Health, *Adoption: Achieving the Right Balance* (CI (2000), LAC (98)20)
- Douglas, G, *Adoption: Changing Families, Changing Times* (Routledge, 2003)
- Fanon, F, *Black Skins, White Masks* (Grove Press, 1967)
- Hayes, M and Williams, C, *Family Law: Principles, Policy and Practice* (Butterworths, 1999)
- Hoggett, B, *Parents and Children* (4th edn, Sweet and Maxwell, 1993)
- Lewis, J, 'Adoption: the Nature of Policy Shifts in England and Wales' (2004) 18 *International Journal of Law Policy and the Family* 235
- Masson, J, Norbury, D, and Chatterton, S G, *Mine, Yours or Ours: a Study of Step Parent Adoption* (HMSO, 1983)
- Report of the Departmental Committee on the Adoption of Children (Home Office, Scottish Education Department) (Cmnd 5107, 1972), The Houghton Report
- Tizard, B, *Adoption: a Second Chance* (Open Books, 1970)

### SELF-TEST QUESTIONS

- 1 How different are the children placed for adoption today compared with the children so placed in the 1920s?
- 2 How far has adoption law changed in response to the needs of children being placed for adoption?
- 3 Explain the circumstances in which a parent's consent to adoption will be dispensed with. Is the test under the ACA 2002 sufficiently specific?
- 4 Has recent adoption practice become overly embroiled in debates about ethnocentrism, thereby leaving black children without the possibility of being adopted?