



State-by-State Information about How to Find Family Members Who Have Been Separated by Adoption

Mutual Consent Registry: This is how all parties involved in adoption provide information on whether they are willing or unwilling to have identifying information disclosed. These registries vary from state to state but generally the consent is needed from one birth parent and either the adoptive child or adoptive parents depending on the age of the child to release this information. In most states, the parties need to file an affidavit in order to release the information.

Non identifying Information: This is information about birth parents and children that does not give away the identity of the individuals. This information could include this different information: when and where the adoptive child was born, how old the birth parents are and a brief physical description, race, ethnicity, medical information and religion of the birth parents, how much schooling the birth parents have, why the child was put up for adoption and any other children each birth parent may have. All states have provisions in place about who can obtain this information and when. Usually it is given to adoptive parents at the time of adoption. Adoptive children can request to receive this information generally once they turn 18 years of age.

Identifying Information: Information that reveals a person's identity, such as last name, address, phone number and detailed family history. In the field of adoption search and reunion, information allowing a birth parent, adoptive parent or an adoptee to be identified and located.

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Nonidentifying information may be released, upon request, to:

- The files and records of the court in adoption proceedings shall not be open to inspection or copy by persons other than the parties in interest and their attorneys, representatives of the State Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, and the Commission on Judicial Performance in the discharge of the commission's duties, except upon an order of the court expressly permitting the same. As used in this section, parties in interest shall not include genetic parents once a decree of adoption is entered.

Access to nonidentifying information is limited to:

- The Department of Social Rehabilitation Services may contact the adoptive parents of the minor child or the adult adopted person at the request of the genetic parents in the event of a health or medical need. The department may contact the adult adopted person at the request of the genetic parents for any reason.

Mutual access to identifying information:

- Identifying information shall not be shared with the genetic parents without the permission of the adoptive parents of the minor child or the adult adopted person.

Access to original birth certificate:

- The original birth certificate is a sealed document that may be opened by the State Registrar only upon the demand of the adult adopted person or by an order of the court.

Kansas Department of Children and Family Services, Post Adoption Search and Records

Contact Info Last Updated: 26-February-2013

Web Link: <http://www.srs.ks.gov/agency/cfs/Pages/AdoptionServices.aspx>

Topeka KS 66612

