



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 services of a confidential intermediary are available to:
 - The adult adopted person
 - The legal parent or guardian of the child of a deceased adopted person.
 - The adult descendant of a deceased adopted person
 - The birth parent
 - The adult birth sibling or grandparent of an adult adopted person
 - The sibling of a deceased birth parent

Access to nonidentifying information is limited to:

- If the person who is the subject of the search is not willing to share identifying information, meet, or communicate with the person who initiated the search.
- The confidential intermediary shall attempt to obtain any nonidentifying medical or social history information that has been requested by the person who has initiated the search.
- If nonidentifying medical or social history information was obtained, the administrator shall provide a copy of the nonidentifying information to the person who initiated the search.

Mutual access to identifying information:

- The department shall establish a search program using the services of a confidential intermediary that may be used by eligible persons listed above. To locate an adult birth relative with whom contact has been lost through adoption.
- If a birth relative of an adopted person, other than a birth parent, applies to initiate a search or is the subject of a search, the administrator of the confidential intermediary search program shall ascertain from the State Registrar of Vital Statistics whether an affidavit of nondisclosure by a birth parent is on file.
 - If such an affidavit is on file and has not been revoked, the search may not be initiated.
- The intermediary will conduct a reasonable search for an individual being sought, and make a discreet and confidential inquiry as to whether the individual consents to the release of identifying information or medical information or to meeting or communicating with the individual initiating the search.
 - If the individual initiating the search and the individual being sought consent in writing to meet or to communicate with each other, the

intermediary will act to facilitate any meeting or communication between them.

- If the confidential intermediary is able to locate the subject of the search, he or she shall make a discreet and confidential inquiry as to whether the person who is the subject of the search with consent to share identifying information, communicate, or meet with the person who initiated the search.
 - The inquiry shall be by personal and confidential contact, without disclosing the identifying information about the person who initiated the search.
- If the person who is the subject of the search is willing to share identifying information, communicate, or meet with the person who initiated the search, the confidential intermediary shall obtain this consent in writing.

Access to original birth certificate:

- For adoptions finalized after November 1, 1997, an uncertified copy of the original birth certificate is available to an adopted person, age 18 or older, upon written request under the following conditions:
 - He or she presents proof of identity
 - There are no birth siblings under age 18 who are currently in an adoptive family and whose whereabouts are known.
 - The birth parents have not filed affidavits of nondisclosure
- Original birth certificates are also available upon order of the court for good cause shown, pursuant to § 7505-1.1.

Adoption Reunion Registry, Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Contact Info Last Updated: 18-May-2011

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