



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.

INDIANA

Nonidentifying information may be released, upon request, to:

- The following persons may request the release of identifying information;
 - An adult adopted person
 - A birth parent
 - An adoptive parent
 - The spouse or relative of a deceased adopted person
 - The spouse or relative of a deceased birth parent

Access to nonidentifying information is limited to:

- The person, licensed child-placing agency, or county office shall release all available social, medical, psychological, and educational records concerning the child to:
 - The prospective adoptive parent or adoptive parent
 - Upon request, the adopted person who is at least age 21 and provides proof of identification
- The report shall exclude information that would identify the birth parents unless the adoptive parent, prospective adoptive parent, or adopted person who requests the information knows the identity of the birth parents.
- For an adoption that was granted before July 1, 1993:
 - Upon the request of an adopted person who is age least age 21, the licensed child-placing agency or a county office shall provide to the adopted person available information of social, medical, psychological, and educational records and reports.
 - Information that would identify the birth parents shall be excluded form the report unless an adopted person already knows the identity of the birth parents.

Mutual access to identifying information:

- Identifying information may not be released unless the adult adopted person and the birth parent have submitted a written consent to the State Registrar, or the person from whom the identifying information is requested that allows the release of the information to the individual requesting the information.

- Identifying information for an adopted person who is younger than age 21 may not be released unless the adopted person's adoptive parent has submitted a written consent for the release of identifying information.
- For adoptions after December 31, 1993:
 - Identifying information shall be released only if the adopted person has submitted a written consent to the State Registrar or the person who has requested the release of identifying information.
 - If the adopted person is younger than age 21, identifying information may not be released unless the adopted person's adoptive parent has submitted a written consent for the release of identifying information.
- A birth parent may restrict access to his or her identifying information by filing a written nonrelease form with the State Registrar. The nonrelease form:
 - Remains in effect during the period indicated by the individual submitting the form.
 - Is renewable
 - May be withdrawn at any time by the individual who submitted the form.
- The nonrelease form is no longer in effect if the birth parent consents in writing to the release of identifying information and has not withdrawn that consent.
- A nonrelease form is no longer in effect if the birth parent who filed the nonrelease form is deceased unless the nonrelease form specifically states that the nonrelease form remains in effect after the birth parent's death.

Access to original birth certificate:

- The original birth certificate is withheld from inspection except for a child adopted by a stepparent or as provided in statutes pertaining to release of identifying information.

Indiana Adoption History Registry, Indiana State Department of Health, Vital Statistics

Web Link: <http://www.state.in.us/isdh/18934.htm>

Phone: (317) 233-1325

Indianapolis IN 46204