



## 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.

# ALASKA

## **Nonidentifying information may be released, upon request, to:**

- Identifying information may be accessed by:
  - The adopted person who is age 18 or older
  - The birth parent
- The adoptive parent may access nonidentifying information

## **Access to nonidentifying information is limited to:**

- The State Registrar may release information regarding the birth parents at the request of an adoptive parent or an adopted person who is age 18 or older.
  - Nonidentifying information includes:
    - The age of the birth parents at the child's birth
    - The birth parents' heritage, including ethnic background and Tribal membership
    - The medical history of the birth parents and blood relatives of the birth parents
    - Number of years of school completed by the birth parents when the child was born
    - The physical description of the birth parents at the child's birth, including height, weight, and color of eyes, hair, and skin
    - The existence of other children of the birth parents
    - The religion of the birth parents
    - Whether the birth parent was alive at the time of the adoption
    - Other information provided by the birth parents for disclosure to the child, including photos and letters

## **Mutual access to identifying information:**

- The State Registrar shall disclose to a birth parent, at the parent's request, the most current name and address of an adopted child as they appear in the State Registrar's adoption files.
- If the child is 18 or older and has requested in writing that the information be disclosed if ever requested by the birth parent.

## **Access to original birth certificate:**

- After receiving a request by an adopted person who is age 18 or older for the identity of a birth parent. The State Registrar shall provide the person with an

uncertified copy of the person's original birth certificate, and any change in the birth parent's name or address attached to the certificate.

- An adopted person age 18 or older or a birth parent may submit to the State Registrar a notice of change of name or address. The State Registrar shall attach the information to the original birth certificate of the adopted person.

**Bureau of Vital Statistics, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services**

Contact Info Last Updated: 07-June-2011

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