



## 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.

# HAWAII

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

- Health information may be provided to:
  - The adult adopted person
  - The adoptive parent
  - The minor adopted person's guardian or custodian
- Adoption records may be accessed by:
  - The adult adopted person
  - The adoptive parents
  - The birth parents

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

- The Department of Health shall prepare a standard medical information form to obtain medical information on the birth parents of the minor adopted person.
  - This form shall include a request for any information about the adopted child's potential genetic or other inheritable diseases, including similar medical histories, if known, of the parents of the birth parents.
  - All child-placing organizations shall make reasonable efforts to complete this form on both birth parents, to obtain from the natural parents written consent to the release of this information to or for the benefit of the adopted child, and whenever possible, to obtain from the natural mother a signed release to receive a copy of all of her medical records relating to the birth of the adopted child that are in the possession of the hospital or other facility at which the child was born.
  - The completed forms shall be included in the department's adoption records.
- Upon written application from the adult adopted person, or the adoptive parent, guardian, or custodian on behalf of a minor adopted person, the Department of Health shall furnish the applicant with a copy of the completed forms.
  - The department is authorized to disclose the information without prior court approval.
- Information concerning the ethnic background and necessary medical information may be released regardless of the presence of a confidentiality affidavit.

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

- An adopted person who is age 18 or older may submit a written request to the family court for inspection of adoption records.

- Such records will be released unless the birth parents have filed a confidentiality affidavit.
  - Such affidavits may be renewed every 10 years.
- The adopted person may submit an affidavit person consenting to the inspection of records by the birth parents.

**Access to original birth certificate:**

- If a new birth certificate is issued, the original birth certificate shall be sealed. The sealed document may be opened by the department only by an order of a court when requested in accordance with § 578-15.
- The birth parent may be provided a copy of the original birth certificate upon request.

**Family Court Central Registry**

Contact Info Last Updated: 11-June-2012

E-mail: [hui@pidfoundation.org](mailto:hui@pidfoundation.org)

Phone: (808) 441-1117

Honolulu HI 96817