



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.

UTAH

Nonidentifying information may be released, upon request, to:

- The adoptive parents
- The adopted person's legal guardian if the adoptive parents are deceased
- The adopted person
- The adopted person's spouse or guardian of the adopted person's child if the adopted person is deceased.
- The adopted person's child or descendant
- The birth parent or adult birth sibling
- Identifying information is accessible to:
 - The adult adopted person
 - Birth parents
 - A birth sibling who is age 18 or older

Access to nonidentifying information is limited to:

- A detailed health history and a genetic and social history of the adopted person that is on file with the Office of Vital Records and Statistics shall be available upon request to the persons listed above.

Mutual access to identifying information:

- The adult adopted person and birth parents, upon presentation of positive identification, may request identifying information from the adoption registry maintained by the office.
- The office may release identifying information only when it receives request from both the adopted person and the birth parent.
- After matching the request of an adult adopted person with that of at least one birth parent, the office shall notify both the adopted person and the birth parent that the requests have been matched and disclose the identifying information to those parties. However, if the adult adopted person has a sibling of the same birth parent who is under age 18, and who was raised in the same family setting as the adult adopted person, the office shall not disclose the requested identifying information to that adult adopted person or the birth parent.
- Adult adopted persons and adult siblings, upon presentation of positive identification, may request identifying information from the registry, following the same procedure outlined above.
- Information registered with the office is available only to a registered adult adopted person, and his or her registered birth parent or registered adult sibling,

information regarding a birth parent, who has not registered a request with the office may not be disclosed.

Access to original birth certificate:

- A petition for adoption, the written report described in § 78B-6-135, and any other documents filed in connection with the petition, are sealed. These documents may only be open to inspection as follows:
 - Upon order of the court expressly permitting inspection or copying, after good cause has been shown
 - Through registration with voluntary adoption registry, as provided under § 78B-6-144
- Those records shall become public on the 100th anniversary of the date the final decree of adoption was entered.
- If the adopted person is an adult at the time the final decree of adoption is entered, the documents described in this section are open to inspection and copying without a court order by the adopted person or a parent who adopted the adopted person. Unless the final decree of adoption is entered by the juvenile court that has jurisdiction over a vulnerable adult, as described in § 78B-6-115(3)(b).

Adoption Reunion Registry, Utah Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

Web Link: <https://health.utah.gov>

Phone: (801) 538-6003

Salt Lake City UT 84116