



## 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.

# NEVADA

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

- Information from the State registrar is available to:
  - The adopted person who is age 18 or older
  - The birth parents
  - Persons related within the third degree to the adopted person
- Medical and sociological information shall be provided to the adoptive parents.

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

- The agency that provides child welfare services or a licensed child-placing agency shall provide the adopting parents with a report that includes:
  - A copy of any of the child's medical records that are in the possession of the agency.
  - Any information about the medical and sociological history of the child and the birth parents.
  - Any behavioral, emotional, or psychological problems that the child may have.
  - Information regarding any subsidies, assistance, and other services that may be available to the child if it is determined that he or she has any special needs.
- The report must exclude any information that would lead to the identification of the birth parent

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

- The division shall maintain the State registrar for adoptions to provide information to identify adults who were adopted and persons related to them within the third degree of consanguinity.
  - The State registrar for adoptions consists of:
    - Names and other information relating to persons who have released a child for adoption and who have submitted the information voluntarily to the division.
    - Names and other necessary information of persons who are 18 years of age or older who were adopted and who have submitted the information voluntarily to the division
    - Names and other necessary information of persons who are related within the third degree of consanguinity to adopted persons and who have submitted information voluntarily to the division.

- Any person whose name appears in the register may withdraw it by requesting in writing that it be withdrawn. The division shall immediately withdraw a name upon receiving the request and may not thereafter release any information to identify that person, including the information that such a name was ever in the register.
- The division may release information about a person related within the third degree of consanguinity to an adopted person, or about an adopted person to a person related within the third degree of consanguinity of the names and information about both persons are contained in the register and if written consent for the release of such information is given by the birth parent.

**Access to original birth certificate:**

- The original birth certificate is available only upon order of the court.

**Nevada Adoption Registry Services, Division of Child and Family Services**

Contact Info Last Updated: 23-March-2011

Web Link:

[http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS\\_PhoneDirectory.htm#child\\_welfare\\_services](http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/DCFS_PhoneDirectory.htm#child_welfare_services)

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