



## 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.

# WYOMING

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

- The adoptive parent
- The adult adopted person
- Identifying information may be accessed by:
  - The adult adopted person
  - The adoptive parent
  - The birth parent, sibling, or grandparent
- All parties must be age 18 or older

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

- To the extent available, the medical history of the adoptive child and his or her birth parents, with information identifying the birth parents eliminated, shall be provided to the child's adoptive parent any time after the adoption decree or to the child after he or she attains the age of majority.
- The history shall include but not be limited to all available information regarding conditions or diseases believed to be hereditary, any drugs or medication taken during pregnancy by the birth mother, and any other information that may be a factor influencing the child's present or future health.

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

- Any person listed above may petition the court to appoint one or more confidential intermediaries for the purpose of determining the whereabouts of an unknown birth relative, except that no one shall seek a relative who is a minor.
- Any information obtained by the intermediary shall be kept strictly confidential and shall be utilized only for the purpose of arranging a contact between the individual who initiated the search and the sought-after birth relatives.
- When a sought-after relative is located:
  - Contact shall be made between the parties only when written consent for such contact has been obtained from both parties and filed with the court
  - If consent for personal communication is not obtained from parties, all relinquishment and adoption records. Any information obtained by any confidential intermediary during the course of his or her investigation shall be returned to the court and shall remain confidential.

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

- The original birth certificate is not subject to inspection except by court order.

**Wyoming Department of Family Services**

Contact Info Last Updated: 15-April-2011

Web Link: <http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/districts/county.htm>

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