



## 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.

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

- Identifying information may be made available to:
  - The adult adopted person
  - The birth parents
  - Adult birth siblings

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

- A copy of all medical and genetic information compiled as part of the adoption investigation shall be made available to the adopting family by the department or other investigating children's adoption agency prior to entry of the final order of adoption.

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

- The State Registrar of Vital Statistics shall establish and maintain a confidential list of qualified adult adopted persons, birth parents, or adult birth siblings who have consented to release of their identifying information.
  - Any consent shall indicate the person's desired method of notification in the event that a match occurs, and shall also indicate whether the applicant desires release of identifying information if a match occurs after his or her death.
  - The applicant may revise his or her consent with respect to change of address or method of notification.
- A birth parent shall not be matched with an adult adopted person without the consent of the other birth parent unless:
  - There is only one birth parent listed on the birth certificate
  - The other birth parent is deceased
  - The other birth parent cannot be found by the Department of Health and Welfare or by a licensed child-placing agency.

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

- The original birth certificate is available upon a court order or, in accordance with § 39-259A, when all parties have consented through the State adoption registry.

**Idaho Voluntary Adoption Registry, Vital Records Section, Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics**

Contact Info Last Updated: 06-April-2011

Web Link: [http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/portal/alias\\_Rainbow/lang\\_en-US/tabID\\_3334/DesktopDefault.aspx](http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/portal/alias_Rainbow/lang_en-US/tabID_3334/DesktopDefault.aspx)

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