



Information for Adopted Adults

advice@ccsadoption.org

0117 935 0005

The Law and You

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 came into force in both England and Wales on 30th December 2005. Adopted adults and their adult birth relatives have a right to apply for an Intermediary Service. This means that an adopted adult can ask an Intermediary Agency to trace, and establish whether contact would be welcome with a birth relative.

Key Changes in the Law

If you were adopted before 30th December 2005, the Act brought in the following changes:

- Adopted adults and their adult birth relatives can request a regulated intermediary Service
- Adopted people can make it known on the Adoption Contact Register that they do not want contact at all, or only in certain circumstances
- Adopted people can put a qualified or absolute veto on contact on their adoption file
- Intermediary Agencies cannot disclose identifying information about adopted adults without first getting their consent
- Adoption Support Agencies and Adoption Agencies may charge fees to cover costs incurred. However, adopted persons cannot be charged for access to their adoption records
- The courts and the Registrar General now have to give you the information they may hold about the circumstances of your birth and adoption
- People adopted before 12th November 1975 will be given priority in relation to Intermediary Services

What is an Intermediary Agency?

An Intermediary Agency is an organisation that helps you get in touch with other people. They can do this by acting as a 'go between' so that you and the person you are looking for can choose whether and how you want to go ahead. It can be:

- an Adoption Support Agency
- a Voluntary Adoption Agency
- a Local Authority

If your Local Authority does not offer an Intermediary Service, they can refer to you to a registered Adoption Support Agency.

The Adoption Contact Register (ACR)

If you do not want a proactive service to try and establish contact with a birth relative but simply want to make it easy for them to find you, you can place your details on the Adoption Contact Register (ACR) held by the Register General.

Adopted Children's Register in Southport

You need to write/look on the website of the Registrar General and obtain a form ACR 108 which you will need to complete and provide certificates proving your relationship to the relative. The full address is:

General Register Office Certificate Services Section
PO BOX 2
Southport
Merseyside
PR8 2JD

Alternatively, you can download the form from the internet from the site www.direct.gov.uk (type ACR 108 in the search box).

Counselling

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 came into force in both England and Wales on 30th December 2005. The Act provides clear pathways for both adopted people and birth relatives to seek information about the adoption and people involved. In the Act, there is a provision for people involved in the adoption to receive counselling. This is to support them during the process of sharing or receiving information.

If you are an adopted person you will not have to pay for any counselling that you receive. Where you are seeking information about a relative and as a result the person contacted requests counselling, you may have to cover the cost of their counselling. Where you are responsible for the costs of another person's counselling you will be given full information about this. The counselling may take longer than one session.

Further Information

If you wish to talk to anyone about the information outlined in this leaflet then you can contact us at advice@ccsadoption.org or 0117 935 0005.

The following sources of information may also be of use:

- Register General (IPS) www.direct.gov.uk
- A full list of agencies providing a search and intermediary service can be obtained from www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk
- Commission for Social Care Inspection www.cqc.gov.uk
- Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales www.csiw.wales.gov.uk
- OFSTED www.ofsted.gov.uk