

Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption

8308 N. May Avenue, Suite 100 ♦ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120 ♦ Phone: (405) 949-4200 ♦ Fax: (405) 720-8686
Website: www.deaconessadoption.org

SEARCH & REUNION SERVICES

We recognize that while some parties may have a strong desire to obtain identifying information, others may not. Adoption records are confidential by law in Oklahoma, Title 21, O.S., 1981 s866 (4). Therefore, only certain information may be released.

Description Sheet Containing Birth Family Social & Medical History:

The description sheet provides non-identifying information about both birth parents, such as age at time of birth, height, weight, hair color, eye color, etc. The social and medical history of the birth family is given at the time the child is placed for adoption. It contains any history that was available during that time period. To obtain this information, please complete and return the enclosed form titled **Consent for Release of Non-Identifying Information**. Please include copies of two forms of identification and a check or money order in the amount of \$50.00.

Native American Roll Application:

The Agency will request the application for enrollment from the tribe and complete the form with all available confidential information. To obtain this information, please complete and return the enclosed form titled **Consent for Release of Non-Identifying Information**. Please include copies of two forms of identification and a check or money order in the amount of \$250.00.

Mutual Consent Registry/Waiver of Confidentiality:

The adoption reunion registry is a registry where an adoptee, birth parent or family member, age 18 or older, can register to have their name placed. If/when both the birth parent/adoptee/family members have sent in waivers, giving their consent, we will facilitate a reunion. To obtain this information, please complete and return the enclosed form titled **Waiver of Confidentiality**. Please include copies of two forms of identification and a check or money order in the amount of \$150.00. If the person you are searching for has not also filed a waiver, this fee can be transferred toward the cost associated with a Confidential Intermediary Search.

Confidential Intermediary Search:

This is an actual search for the party you want to locate. The Agency acts as an intermediary and attempts to locate and contact your family member. There is no guarantee that the person you are searching for can be located. If the person is located, he/she must agree in writing to be contacted. If he/she does not agree, no identifying information can be released, according to Oklahoma Statutes. In the event that they do not agree to contact, we will attempt to obtain updated family social and medical history. To request the Confidential Intermediary Search, you must complete the enclosed form titled **Request for Confidential Intermediary Search**. Please include the form with copies of two forms of identification and a check or money order in the amount of \$200.00. (The actual costs for CI Searches are \$400.00. Because of generous donors, the fee has been reduced by \$200.00.) **This process can take up to six months.** If the fee for one search has been paid and additional searches are requested, the fee is \$150.00 per search.

Please note: Information will only be released to members of the adoption triad (birthparents, adoptive parents, or adoptee) and biological family members. If you are a biological relative of the child placed for adoption, you must have written, notarized consent from one of the birth parents who placed the child for adoption, and proof of relationship, before a search can be conducted. If the member of the adoption triad is deceased, a copy of a death certificate must be provided.

All fees are non-refundable upon receipt by Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption.

It takes approximately six to eight weeks for the records to be secured. Please allow sufficient time for a response before checking back with us.

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Confidential Intermediary Search Explanation

A Confidential Intermediary Search is an actual search for the party you want to locate. The process requires using a multitude of search engines and may include the services of a private investigator; therefore, please be prepared for a minimum wait of three months. Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services acts as an intermediary and attempts to locate and contact your family member. There is no guarantee the person you are searching for can be located. If the person is located, he/she must agree in writing to be contacted. If he/she does not agree, no identifying information can be released per the Oklahoma Statutes. In the event your party does not agree to contact, we will attempt to obtain updated family medical and social history.

To complete the confidential intermediary search process, you must complete the enclosed forms titled *Request for Confidential Intermediary Search*. Return the form with two types of identification. The costs associated with these searches are extensive, averaging \$400.00 per search. Because of the generosity of our donors, the fee for these services has been reduced to \$200.00. Therefore, please include a check or money order for this amount. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please call our offices at 405.949.4200 and ask to speak to the Business Manager.

If you need financial assistance to offset the cost of any of our search and reunion services, grant funds may be available. Grants are awarded on the basis of your household's gross income. To be considered, a short letter explaining your situation and a copy of your most recent tax return is required. Grants are provided by donors that give to the Joseph Fund. If you would like to learn about the Joseph Fund, go to www.deaconessadoption.org, just click on the button titled *Help our Mission* and then click on the moniker says *The Joseph Fund*.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (405) 949-4200 or by email at krichart@deaconessadoption.org.

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REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY SEARCH

Fee: \$200.00 for one search, \$150.00 per additional search

Although some parties may have a strong desire to obtain identifying information and pursue a relationship, others may not. This program is voluntary for all participants and Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services (DPAS) fully recognizes the right to privacy and confidentiality of all people involved.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: Residence (____) _____

Cell or Business (____) _____

Email: _____

If known, please answer the following questions regarding the adoption.

Person you want to contact: _____ Your relationship to this person: _____

Birth Mother's name: _____ Alias: _____

Birth Father's name: _____ Alias: _____

Child's Name: _____ Child's Birth Date: _____

Adoptive Parent's names: _____

I understand there is no guarantee the person I am seeking will be located. I understand that upon location, the person being sought will be informed about the provisions of the Agency's Reunion Registry and the Confidential Intermediary Search Program and will be given forms and information to register. If the person I am searching for is contacted, and declines to give her/his consent, I understand no identifying information will be released to me, according to Chapter 75 of the Oklahoma Adoption Code, Section 45. _____

Initials

I understand that no pressure to participate will be placed on the person I am seeking. I understand that I will not be entitled to a refund of fees in the event that the search is unsuccessful, the person located declines further contact, or for any other reason once payment has been made to DPAS. _____

Initials

I hereby request that DPAS conduct a confidential search for the above-listed person. I understand if I want to search for more than one person, the additional fee of \$150.00 is required for each search. _____

Initials

I hereby release DPAS and its employees and agents from any liability or responsibility relating to or arising out of this search. _____

Initials

Signature

Date

STATE OF _____)

COUNTY OF _____)

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

My Commission Expires:

Attach two of the following identity verifications:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Driver's License

Notary Public

Top 10 Ways for a Happy Reunion and Relationship

Practical Advice for Reuniting Families

Linda Back McKay (author of Shadow Mothers: Stories of Adoption and Reunion)

1. **BE YOURSELF.** (Am I too fat? Will she think I'm dumb?) You are who you are and it's best not to worry about it. Know that you're a good person, be honest with yourself and others and above all, try to relax.
2. **BE RESOURCEFUL.** (What should I expect? What if she (he) hates me?) You may feel more in control of the possibilities by finding out how other families have handled reunions. In addition to my book, there is much information in the library and on the internet. It might be a good idea to seek out the advice of a professional counselor (familiar with adoption issues), too.
3. **BE RESPECTFUL.** (Why can't we all spend Christmas together?) Your new-found relatives have an entire history – which doesn't include you. It is important to respect their lifestyles and desires, just as they need to respect yours.
4. **BE SENSITIVE.** (Separated all these years – we must make up for lost time!) Be a good listener and try to be aware of how others are feeling. In the joy of getting to know one another, we need to remember that it's normal for adoptive parents to feel threatened, or at least uncertain. When I met my son, I wrote many letters to his adoptive parents. Those letters helped reassure them that they weren't going to lose their son. Keep in mind that adopted people are fiercely loyal to their adoptive families – and rightly so.
5. **BE PATIENT.** (I've known her for three weeks and she's never even hugged me.) Sometimes it takes years for people to bond. And sometimes people end up slowly drifting away from each other. Be patient with your relationship. Don't try to push, and don't hang back needlessly. Let things develop naturally. I've been reunited with my adult son for almost 12 years and we're still getting to know each other.
6. **TALK ABOUT IT.** (I wonder if she thinks I didn't want her. I wonder if she knows that I've always loved her.) Don't try to second guess anyone. The best way to find out what you want to know is to ask. Be open and honest.
7. **BE UNDERSTANDING.** (Why are they acting this way?) You may feel a bit like an emotional octopus – trying to understand everybody all at once. Don't forget, siblings, grandparents, everybody's relatives, friends and co-workers are all going to be influenced in some way by your reunion.
8. **ASK FOR HELP.** (I can't handle this.) The most courageous people I know are those who see a counselor or other mental health professional when things get rough.
9. **KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE.** (This is only part of who I am.) Especially at first, it's easy to make your reunion a central focus. Don't forget the other people and activities in your life. And rest assured, things will calm down with time.
10. **ENJOY YOUR LIFE.** (All in all, the world is pretty much okay, when we stop to think about it.) No matter how your reunion and relationship turn out, remember that you're in charge of your own happiness. What you do with your life is ultimately up to you.

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WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Fee: \$150.00

This program recognizes that while some parties may have a strong desire to obtain identifying information, others may not. This program is voluntary for all participants and fully recognizes the right to privacy and confidentiality of all people involved. If the person you are searching for has not filed a waiver, this fee can be transferred toward the cost associated with a Confidential Intermediary Search.

I, _____, (adoptee, birthparent, relative), do hereby request and authorize Deaconess Pregnancy & Adoption Services, LLC to release confidential information in my records, including my present name and address to the following:

Birth parents Adoptee Son or Daughter Relatives

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: Residence (____) _____

Business (____) _____

Email: _____

If known, please answer the following questions regarding the adoption.

Person you want to contact: _____

Your relationship to them: _____

Birth mother's name: _____ Alias: _____

Birth father's name: _____ Alias: _____

Child's Name: _____ Child's Birth Date: _____

Adoptive Parent's Names: _____

I understand this consent can be revoked at any time except to the extent that disclosure made in good faith has already occurred in reliance on this consent. _____
Initials

I hereby release Deaconess Pregnancy and Adoption Services, LLC and its employees and agents from any liability or responsibility relating to or arising out of this program. _____
Initials

Signature

Date

STATE OF _____)

COUNTY OF _____)

Signed or attested before me on the _____ day of _____, 20____.

My Commission Expires:

Notary Public

Please attach two of the following verifications of identity:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Driver's License