

Adoption Information Service

This information supports the Adoption Information Service Registration Form.

The Adoption Information Service Register

The Access and Information Provision (*Adoption Act 1988*) provides for an Adoption Information Service (AIS) and an Adoption Information Register (AIR). These services are intended to help all persons involved in an adoption (adopted persons, parents, adoptive parents, and natural relatives) to obtain and exchange information about each other and to arrange to meet if they wish to do so.

The law also recognises that all people concerned have the right to privacy and to have their lives protected from intrusion.

The AIR allows all people affected by adoption to register their wishes about contact and exchange of information. This may include a veto against contact, known as a Contact Veto.

Counselling interview

All persons seeking information who are residents of Tasmania are required to attend an interview with a counsellor before receiving information. The purpose of counselling is to explain your rights, the rights of others, and to help you consider what may arise in search and reunion. Counselling is free.

Applicants living outside of Tasmania are not required to attend a counselling interview, though will be contacted by an Adoption Officer to discuss any questions they may have.

Adopted person

As an adopted person on reaching the age of eighteen (18) years you are entitled to:

- A Certificate allowing access to your original birth record. This is referred to as your Section 80 Certificate.
- Any information that may be held on the record of your adoption, including the name of your birth mother and possibly the name of your birth father if recorded.

If a Contact Veto has been registered, you will be required to sign an Undertaking not to contact the person before being given the information.

You may register your wishes about:

- Exchange of identifying or non-identifying information
- Contact with your birth parents or relatives
- Veto on contact.

If you are not yet 18 years old, the written agreement of your adoptive parents is needed before any information can be given to you. Information which could identify your birth parents, and access to your

original birth record cannot be given to you unless we can obtain the written agreement of the birth parent or parents who consented to your adoption. You may ask for the Adoption Information Service to seek this written agreement.

Adoptive parents

As an adoptive parent you can register your wishes about:

- Exchange of identifying or non-identifying information
- Contact with the birth parents of your adopted child (if he or she is under 18 years old)
- Your adopted child's contact with his or her birth parents (if he or she is under 18 years old).

You may also register your wish not to be contacted.

Birth parents and other birth relatives

Birth parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, siblings, or lineal descendants may register. You may be entitled to:

- Information held on the adoption record about yourself and the adopted person. This will include the adoptive name of your relative. If a Contact Veto is in place, you will be required to sign an Undertaking not to contact the person.
- If your relative is not yet 18 years old, the written agreement of all parents is needed before any identifying information can be given to you. You may ask for the Adoption Information Service to seek this written agreement.

Contact Veto

All parties may register a veto on contact. Your identifying information will only be given out if the person requesting the information signs a legally binding undertaking not to contact you

You can leave a message with the veto, e.g. family medical history, married, have children etc.

A Contact Veto will not be recorded unless your name, date of birth and address are provided. Your address will remain confidential.

Costs

All fees will be waived for information regarding adoptions that occurred prior to 1988. Registration and Information Fees apply to all other requests for information. A Registration Only Fee places you on the Adoption Information Register so that your wishes are known and can be followed should someone register to seek information, including Contact Veto.

Contact details

Adoption & Permanency Services

In writing: GPO Box 538, Hobart 7001 TAS

By phone: 03 6166 0422

By email: adoption.service@decyp.tas.gov.au

Website: <http://www.decyp.tas.gov.au>