



TWENTY SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT – JUVENILE DIVISION

INFORMATION FROM PAST ADOPTION RECORDS

State law regulates confidential information concerning any adoption finalized in Missouri. Additionally, each juvenile court and adoption agency has its individual procedures regarding the release of information and its own interpretation of the state law.

HOW TO REQUEST INFORMATION

There are four places where the adult adoptee may request information regarding a past adoption record. The lineal descendant (the child or grandchild of a deceased adoptee) may request information from the agency or juvenile court which finalized the adoption:

1. The Missouri Adoption Registry (form attached)
2. The agency which handled the adoption (listing of agencies attached)
3. The juvenile court which finalized the adoption (The proper court for the request is usually the juvenile court in the county where the adoptive parents resided at the time of the adoption. Their place of residence is often listed on the adoptee's amended birth certificate.)
4. Adult adoptees born *prior* to 1941 may now request their original birth certificate through the Missouri Bureau of Vital Records. Beginning January 1, 2018, adult adoptees born in or after 1941 may request a copy of their original birth certificate through the Missouri Bureau of Vital Records. (Forms and instructions attached.)

MISSOURI ADOPTION REGISTRY

The Missouri Children's Division maintains an adoption registry at no cost to the adoptee, the birth parent, or any adult sibling. By completing the Missouri Adoption Registry form and submitting it to the Jefferson City address, the adoptee can register his/her desire to have contact with his/her birth parent(s) and siblings. The form is also used by birth parents and adult biological siblings wishing to register their desire for contact by the adoptee. A representative of the Missouri Children's Division will contact the adult adoptee, the birth parent(s) and/or the adult sibling if a match occurs on the state registry. Missouri law establishes different requirements for the release of identifying information through the Missouri Adoption Registry than the requirements established for the juvenile court. The Registry may avoid the need for a search through the juvenile court, and may also be helpful in the event that the court-authorized search is unsuccessful, but your birth parents or sibling(s) register at a later date.

Missouri law does not authorize the Missouri Adoption Registry to accept requests from lineal descendants of adopted adults.

MISSOURI BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS

On August 28, 2016, House Bill 1599 went into effect, allowing adoption adoptees, or their attorney, to request an uncertified copy of the adoptee's original birth certificate. Under this law, adoptees born before 1941 can request a copy of their original birth certificate beginning August 28, 2016. Adoptees born in and after 1941 can request a copy of their original birth certificate beginning January 1, 2018. Certain conditions must be met before an uncertified copy of the original birth certificate can be released. Please see the forms attached for more information.

Missouri law does not allow the Bureau of Vital Records to accept requests for original birth certificates from lineal descendants.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM JUVENILE COURT

All requests should be in writing and accompanied by proof of identification to assure the court or agency that the information is being requested by an adoptee, a biological parent, an adoptive parent, or the adoptee's lineal descendant if the adopted adult is deceased. Acceptable forms of identification include a photocopy of the applicant's government photo identification card, such as a valid driver's license, a photocopy of the requester's present birth certificate or a notarized written request.

All requests for information should specify whether the individual is seeking verification of an adoption, non-identifying and/or identifying information. Including as much of the following information regarding the adoption as is known will allow the court and/or agency to expedite the request:

1. Adoptive name
2. Adoptee's date of birth
3. Adoptee's birth name
4. Names of the adoptive parents
5. The name of the adoption agency involved in the adoption
6. Names of the birth parents
7. Date on which the adoption was finalized
8. Cause number or file number on the adoption decree
9. A photocopy of the adoption decree

Any request from a lineal descendant of an adopted adult who is deceased shall also require documentation of the relationship of the requester to the adoptee (birth certificate or copy of a Court document stating relationship) **and** proof of the adoptee's death (copy of adoptee's state-issued death certificate).

VERIFICATION OF ADOPTION

The circuit court clerk handles verification of an adoption and may send a Certificate of Adoption to an adult adoptee or an adoptive parent upon their request. This document does not contain any identifying information regarding the birth parents and is usually used to enroll a child in school or for Social Security purposes. It may also be sent directly to Missouri Child Support Enforcement upon the request of a birth parent to verify that a birth parent's rights have been terminated, when that agency possesses an open case on the birth parent. The circuit court clerk may charge a fee for the production of this document.

NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

The law divides all adoption information into two categories. The first type of information is referred to as **non-identifying**. Non-identifying information includes the physical description, nationality, religious background and medical history of the biological parents and biological siblings. It does not include any information that could lead the adoptee or the adopted adult's lineal descendants - if the adopted adult is deceased - to the biological family members.

Any adult adoptee (eighteen years of age or over) or the adopted adult's lineal descendant - if the adopted adult is deceased - is entitled to receive all non-identifying information that is contained in the file of the juvenile court and the adoption agency which facilitated the adoption. Obviously, the juvenile court and agency can only provide the non-identifying information that is actually contained in their files. Regrettably, some files do not contain much (or any) non-identifying information. All information is sent to the adoptee (or the adopted adult's lineal descendant if the adopted adult is deceased) in writing and in narrative form so that the court and the requester possess a record of what information has been released. Information from a court adoption file is not released verbally and photocopies of filed documents are not released without a specific request outlining the unusual reason requiring the release of the document and a subsequent court order.

Missouri law does not require the consent of or notification to the adoptive or birth parents in order to release non-identifying information to an adult adoptee, or to the adopted adult's lineal descendants - if the adopted adult is deceased. Thus, such requests for non-identifying information will be handled in the strictest confidence.

Please be advised that some child-placing agencies assess a charge for releasing their non-identifying information. The juvenile courts do not charge for this service. The agency file may contain different information than the court file, and some information may conflict. The juvenile court does not ensure the validity of the information contained in its file, as that information was gathered by personnel who are no longer employed by the court or the agency for an adoption case which has been closed for many years.

No one other than an adult adoptee, a biological parent, an adoptive parent or the adopted adult's lineal descendant if the adopted adult is deceased may receive non-identifying

information from an adoption.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

The second type of adoption information is known as **identifying**. This information includes the names, dates of birth, places of birth and last known addresses of the birth parents and biological family members. Again, the requirements for the release of identifying information established by law regarding the Missouri Adoption Registry differ from those established for the juvenile court.

RELEASE OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION BY JUVENILE COURT WHEN CONSENTS ARE ALREADY FILED WITH THE COURT

If the biological parents' written consents to the release of identifying information to the adult adoptee are already contained in the court file, the court may release all identifying information to the adopted adult (or the adopted adult's lineal descendant if the adopted adult is deceased) without further notification to the adoptive parents or the birth parents.

RELEASE OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION BY JUVENILE COURT WHEN CONSENTS ARE NOT CONTAINED IN THE COURT FILES – COURT AUTHORIZED SEARCH

If the birth parents have not already consented in writing to the release of identifying information to the adopted adult, the juvenile court in which the adoption was finalized can only release identifying information with a Court order. By law, the Court can issue such an order only if certain conditions are met. The Court must either obtain a signed and notarized affidavit from the biological parents consenting to the disclosure of information, or the Court must receive certified proof that the biological parents are deceased.

The court cannot authorize the release of identifying information in cases where one or both of the biological parents refuses to consent to the disclosure of identifying information. If one biological parent consents, or is deceased, and the searcher is unable to locate the other parent, the Court may authorize the release of information for the consenting or deceased parent.

All requests for identifying information **must** be initiated by the adult adoptee or a lineal descendant to a deceased adopted adult and sent in writing to the juvenile court where the adoption was finalized. The juvenile court will then authorize the agency that facilitated the adoption to begin the process of attempting to ascertain the positions of the birth parents to the release of information.

The law permits the adoption agency to charge for the actual cost of a search. Each agency charges a different fee. The adoptee (or the adopted adult's lineal descendant) should discuss this matter directly with the agency before authorizing a search. Please keep in mind that any financial agreement is strictly between the agency and the adoptee (or the adopted adult's lineal descendant if the adopted adult is deceased). The juvenile court is

not a party to this agreement.

After court authorization, the adoption agency's initial step is to contact the adoptee or the adopted adult's lineal descendant who has requested the search. The agency will explain their procedures and notify the adoptee or the lineal descendant of their fees. The next step is for the agency to contact the birth parents in order to ascertain their position on the disclosure of information to the adoptee or the adopted adult's lineal descendant. In most cases, this process entails a search for the birth parents.

No two cases are alike. Some searches may be successful after a week while other searches may be unsuccessful after three months or longer. Nevertheless, the law requires the agency to submit a report to the juvenile court within three months after the adoptee's request. If a search requires additional time, the juvenile court may grant an extension.

Under Missouri law, only the juvenile court judge can authorize the release of identifying information from the adoption file to an adult adoptee or the adopted adult's lineal descendant. The juvenile court judge will issue an order that grants or denies the release of information **only** after reviewing the agency's report and its recommendation and **only** in accordance with Missouri law. The judge cannot violate the law set forth by the state.

The court authorized search generally will reveal one of the following situations:

1. Neither birth parent can be notified after a diligent search. *In this case, Missouri law prohibits the release of any identifying information.*
2. One birth parent consents and the other birth parent refuses to consent OR both birth parents refuse to consent. *In this situation, Missouri law prohibits the release of any identifying information regarding both birth parents.*
3. One biological parent consents or is deceased but the other biological parent cannot be located after a diligent search. *In this case, Missouri law allows release of identifying information concerning the consenting or deceased birth parent but not the missing birth parent.*
4. One birth parent consents or is deceased and the other birth parent is unknown. *In this case, Missouri law allows the release of any and all identifying information.*
5. Both biological parents consent or are deceased. *Missouri law allows the release of all identifying information.*

Please remember that, if **either** birth parent refuses to consent in writing, no identifying information shall be released. If the juvenile court authorizes the release of identifying information, the agency will inform the adult adoptee (or the lineal descendant) of the identifying information and coordinate the initial contact with the birth parent(s).

INDEPENDENT ADOPTION SEARCHES

If the adoption was not handled by an agency (i.e., a private or independent adoption or a stepparent adoption), the juvenile court will provide the adoptee or the lineal descendant with a list of agencies and private searchers willing and approved to provide adoption search services for this court. It is the responsibility of the adoptee (or the lineal descendant) to choose from this list and inform the juvenile court of his/her selection. If the juvenile court does not hear from the adoptee (or the lineal descendant) within thirty days, it will be assumed that the individual decided not to pursue a search at that time and the case will be closed.

If the adoptee (or the lineal descendant) notifies the court (in writing) of the private adoption searcher with whom he/she is contracting for the search, the juvenile court judge will issue an order to allow the private searcher to review the court's adoption file for any and all information which may be beneficial in completing a search. The required report is then submitted by the private searcher within the three month time frame set by Missouri law, similar to an agency search. The private searcher must adhere to the same procedures as described above and is prohibited from releasing identifying information to the adoptee or the lineal descendant without a court order.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON SIBLINGS FROM JUVENILE COURT

The adopted adult may request identifying information regarding adult biological sibling(s). Upon such request, the juvenile court will authorize the agency that facilitated the adoption to begin the process of attempting to ascertain the position of the adult sibling(s) to the adoptee regarding the release of their identity. Identifying information regarding the sibling(s) to an adult adoptee will only be released after submission of a signed and notarized consent from that sibling.

As previously noted, the Missouri Adoption Registry can release identifying information regarding a sibling who has registered his/her consent to do so with the Registry.

Revised: January 10, 2017

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR REGISTRANTS

Persons who complete the registration should consider the following:

- All registrants must be at least 18 years old.
- The registry does not have access to and cannot provide copies of the original birth certificate, adoption record, or adoption decree.
- The registry only retains information on file provided by the applicants.
- It is essential to update your contact information on a regular basis to assure prompt service.
- The Adoption Information Registry is not a service for the adopted adult's lineal descendants.

Missouri Statute Section 453.121 addresses the release of information in adoptions and provides authority and guidelines for the Adoption Information Registry.



Our Mission:

To protect Missouri children from abuse and neglect; assuring their safety and well being by partnering with families, communities and government in an ethically, culturally and socially responsible manner.

Missouri Department of Social Services
Children's Division
Adoption Information Registry
P.O. Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103
(573) 751-2981

<http://dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt/adoir.htm>

TT: 1-800-735-2966
Voice: 1-800-735-2466

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER
services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis

CD-51d

REV7/12

Missouri

Adoption Information Registry



WHAT IS THE ADOPTION INFORMATION REGISTRY?

The Missouri Adoption Information Registry is a service by which adopted adults and biological parents or adult siblings may indicate their desire to be contacted by each other.

The Registry can accept applications from adopted adults who were adopted in Missouri or whose biological parents had their parental rights terminated in Missouri.



The Registry also processes applications from those biological parents who relinquish a child for adoption in Missouri as well as adult siblings wishing to have contact with the adopted adult.

The registry is operated by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division.

WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION PROCESS?

Adopted adults, and biological parents or adult siblings must complete and file separate registration forms with the Missouri Adoption Information Registry.

You may obtain a copy of the registration form by:

- Downloading it from the Children's Division website at:
<http://dss.mo.gov/cd/adopt/adoir.htm>
- Calling or visiting your local Children's Division office; or
- Writing to:

Missouri Department of Social Services
Children's Division
Adoption Information Registry
P.O. Box 88
Jefferson City, MO 65103

Be sure to mail the completed form to the above address.

The registration form must be accompanied by a copy of a document confirming the adopted adult or biological parents' or adult siblings' identity.

This may include, but is not limited to, a copy of your birth certificate, adoption decree, or driver's license.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REGISTER?

The information is entered into the Adoption Information Registry.

Search of the Adoption Registry is completed.

If no match is found, a written notification is sent to the registrant.

Possible matches are sent to the court or agency involved in the finalization of the adoption to confirm the match.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A MATCH?

Identifying information regarding the registered biological parent will be released to the adopted adult provided that the other biological parent is either unknown, cannot be found, is deceased, has consented, or has registered with the Adoption Information Registry.

When an adopted adult and a sibling are matched both must consent before identifying information is released.

When a match has occurred, confidential contact will be made by the Division to the adopted adult, biological parent, and adult sibling.

Registrants who have been matched will receive names, addresses, phone numbers, and place of birth.



TO BE COMPLETED BY ADULT ADOPTEE WHO DESIRES CONTACT WITH BIOLOGICAL PARENTS OR SIBLINGS

ADOPTED ADULT REGISTRATION

NOTE: THE REGISTRATION BY AN ADOPTED ADULT CAN BE ACCEPTED ONLY IF THE ADOPTEE IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER.

SECTION A – REQUEST

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN 453.121 RSMo I AM REQUESTING REGISTRATION OF MY DESIRE FOR FUTURE CONTACT WITH MY BIOLOGICAL PARENT/S OR BIOLOGICAL SIBLING/S. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY CHANGE THIS INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE SHOULD MY LOCATION OR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE.

PLEASE CHECK AND PROVIDE A COPY OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO CONFIRM YOUR IDENTITY:

BIRTH CERTIFICATE ADOPTION DECREE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PHOTO ID

FULL BIRTH NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	RACE	SEX
				<input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Indian/Alaskan <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F

FULL ADOPTED NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE

CURRENT NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

CURRENT ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER

DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITY	STATE	COUNTY

AGENCY/INDIVIDUAL THAT MADE PLACEMENT	COUNTY WHERE ADOPTION FINALIZED	DATE OF ADOPTION

ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP

SECTION B- ADOPTIVE PARENTS

ADOPTIVE FATHER'S FULL NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

CURRENT OR LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER

ADOPTIVE MOTHER'S FULL NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

CURRENT OR LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER

SECTION C – BIOLOGICAL PARENTS and SIBLING INFORMATION (COMPLETE ALL KNOWN INFORMATION)

BIOLOGICAL FATHER'S FULL NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
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BIOLOGICAL MOTHER'S FULL NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
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OTHER KNOWN LAST NAMES USED BY MOTHER

BIOLOGICAL SIBLING NAMES	DATES OF BIRTH
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PLEASE INDICATE HOW YOU ARE AWARE OF YOUR SIBLINGS

SECTION D – CERTIFICATION

I SOLEMNLY CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS REGISTRATION IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT

DATE

TO BE COMPLETED BY CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

REGISTRATION REQUEST FILED BY:	BIOLOGICAL PARENT	DATE
	ADOPTED CHILD	DATE
	BIOLOGICAL SIBLING	DATE

POSSIBLE MATCH LOCATED	DATE
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NOTICE SENT TO LOCAL OFFICE FOR CONFIRMATION OF IDENTITY AND/OR NOTIFICATION OF OTHER PARTY TO MATCH IF IDENTITY CONFIRMED

 YES NO DATE
SECTION G – TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL OFFICE STAFF/PRIVATE AGENCY

DETERMINE STATUS OF BIOLOGICAL PARENT NOT REGISTERED WITH ADOPTION REGISTRY

<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> CANNOT BE LOCATED	<input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED TO REGISTER
<input type="checkbox"/> DECEASED	<input type="checkbox"/> HAS NOW COMPLETED ADOPTION REGISTRY FORM (ATTACHED)	<input type="checkbox"/> HAS FILED AFFIDAVIT WITH COURT CONFIRMED DATE

WORKER	DATE	ADDRESS
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PRIVATE/COUNTY AGENCY



TO BE COMPLETED BY ADULT SIBLING WHO DESIRES CONTACT WITH ADOPTED ADULT SIBLING

ADULT SIBLING REGISTRATION

SECTION A – REQUEST

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN 453.121 RSMo

I AM REQUESTING REGISTRATION OF MY DESIRE TO A FUTURE CONTACT WITH MY ADOPTED ADULT SIBLING. I UNDERSTAND THAT I MAY CHANGE THIS INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE SHOULD MY LOCATION OR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE.

PLEASE CHECK AND PROVIDE A COPY OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO CONFIRM YOUR IDENTITY:

BIRTH CERTIFICATE DRIVER'S LICENSE OR PHOTO ID

NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	RACE	SEX
				<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> M
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> F
				<input type="checkbox"/> Indian/Alaskan	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander	

DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE	
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ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER
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PRIOR NAMES

MOTHER'S FULL NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	RACE
				<input type="checkbox"/> White
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black
				<input type="checkbox"/> Indian/Alaskan
				<input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander

DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER			
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CURRENT OR LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER
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FATHER'S FULL NAME	LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	RACE
				<input type="checkbox"/> White
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black
				<input type="checkbox"/> Indian/Alaskan
				<input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander

DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER			
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CURRENT OR LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE NUMBER
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SIBLING INFORMATION

SIBLING NAME	DATE OF BIRTH
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DO YOU AND THE ADOPTED ADULT HAVE THE SAME BIOLOGICAL MOTHER AND FATHER? IF NO PLEASE INDICATE WHICH PARENT YOU SHARE

HOW ARE YOU AWARE OF YOUR SIBLING AND THEIR ADOPTION? PLEASE INCLUDE ALL KNOWN INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SIBLING

AGENCY/INDIVIDUAL THAT MADE PLACEMENT	COUNTY WHERE ADOPTION FINALIZED	DATE OF ADOPTION
ADDRESS	STREET	CITY
		STATE
		ZIP
SECTION B – CERTIFICATION		
I SOLEMNLY CERTIFY THAT ALL OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS REGISTRATION IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE	SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT	DATE
SECTION C – TO BE COMPLETED BY CHILDREN’S DIVISION STAFF		
REGISTRATION REQUEST FILED BY:	BIOLOGICAL SIBLING	DATE
	ADOPTED CHILD	DATE
POSSIBLE MATCH LOCATED		DATE
NOTICE SENT TO LOCAL OFFICE FOR CONFIRMATION OF IDENTITY AND/OR NOTIFICATION OF OTHER PARTY TO MATCH IF IDENTITY CONFIRMED		
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO DATE		
SECTION D – TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL OFFICE STAFF/PRIVATE AGENCY		
DETERMINE STATUS OF BIOLOGICAL PARENT NOT REGISTERED WITH ADOPTION REGISTRY		
<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> CANNOT BE LOCATED	<input type="checkbox"/> REFUSED TO REGISTER
<input type="checkbox"/> DECEASED	<input type="checkbox"/> HAS NOW COMPLETED ADOPTION REGISTRY FORM (ATTACHED)	<input type="checkbox"/> HAS FILED AFFIDAVIT WITH COURT CONFIRMED DATE
WORKER	DATE	ADDRESS
PRIVATE/COUNTY AGENCY		

Missouri Adoptee Rights Act

Information for Adoptees

On July 1, 2016, Governor Nixon signed House Bill 1599 providing adult adoptees born in Missouri with the opportunity to obtain a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate.

When can adoptees obtain copies of their original birth certificate?

An adoptee born before 1941 may request a copy of his or her original birth certificate beginning August 28, 2016.

Adoptees born in or after 1941 may request a copy of his or her original birth certificate beginning January 1, 2018. Applications for original birth certificates for adoptees born during or after 1941 will not be accepted at this time and will be returned to the applicant.

How can adoptees request their original birth certificate?

To make a request, an adoptee shall complete the Application for Non-Certified Copy of an Original Birth Certificate form and pay a non-refundable \$15 fee. The application form is available on the website at www.health.mo.gov.

Can adoptees appear in person to obtain their original birth certificate?

Adoptees born prior to 1941 may submit applications in person at the Bureau of Vital Records office in Jefferson City. The department must identify, request and retrieve the original birth record before a copy can be issued. Copies of original birth certificates may not be available on the same day requested. Original copies of Missouri vital records, including birth certificates, are stored offsite at a secure, environmentally controlled facility to preserve these important documents. The department will make every effort to provide eligible applicants the requested documents as quickly as possible.

Applications for the original birth certificate may also be mailed to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Vital Records. Please review the application form for the address, fees and other information that will be required of the applicant.

Can anyone other than the adoptee request a copy of the original birth certificate?

Yes, the Missouri Adoptee Rights Act allows an adopted person's attorney to request a copy of the original birth certificate.

Can a family member of the adoptee request a copy of the original birth certificate for genealogy purposes?

No, the Missouri Adoptee Rights Act only allows an adoptee or the adoptee's attorney to request the original birth certificate.

What will the applicant for the original birth certificate receive?

An authorized applicant may receive a non-certified copy of the original birth certificate that is on file with the Bureau of Vital Records if the record can be located based on the information supplied by the applicant.

The preference selected by the birth parent determines what the applicant will receive:

The Department shall not issue a copy of the original birth certificate to the applicant when:

- The applicant does not meet the requirements of section 193.125, RSMo and 19 CSR 10-10.130; or
- Both birth parents have filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that they prefer not to be contacted or prefer contact through an intermediary.

The Department shall issue a non-certified, unredacted copy of the original birth certificate stamped “For genealogical purposes only—not to be used for establishing identity” upon request to a qualified applicant when:

- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and neither birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form;
- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and both birth parents have filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted;
- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and one (1) parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted and the other parent has not filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form;
- The original birth certificate only lists one (1) parent and that parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted; or
- The original birth certificate only lists one (1) parent and that parent has not filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form.

The Department shall issue a non-certified copy of the original birth certificate stamped “For genealogical purposes only—not to be used for establishing identity” to the applicant with the identifying information redacted for the birth parent who indicated they preferred not to be contacted or preferred to be contacted through an intermediary when:

- The original birth certificate only lists one (1) parent and that birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers not to be contacted or prefers contact by an intermediary;
- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and one (1) birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers not to be contacted or prefers contact through an intermediary and the other parent has not filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form; or

- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and one (1) birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers not to be contacted or prefers contact through an intermediary and the other parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted.

What happens if the original birth certificate cannot be located?

If the Department cannot locate the original birth certificate, the Department will issue to the applicant a written statement that no record was found.

Can adoptees receive copies of their birth parents' vital records, such as birth, marriage or death certificates?

No, they cannot.

Can the original birth certificate be amended?

No, it cannot.

Where can I locate a copy of the law?

The Missouri Adoptee Rights Act can be found here:

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills161/billpdf/truly/HB1599T.PDF>.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS

APPLICATION FOR NON-CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE

P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0570
Telephone: (573) 751-6378

Only the adoptee or the adoptee's attorney may request a copy of the adoptee's original (prior to adoption) birth certificate. Applicants may mail the required application with payment or submit it in our office in Jefferson City. A copy of an original birth certificate for adoptees born in Missouri cannot be ordered online.

Adoptees born prior to 1941 may request a copy of the original birth certificate beginning August 28, 2016. Beginning January 1, 2018, adoptees born in or after 1941 may request a copy of their original birth certificate. Information may be redacted depending on whether the birth parent(s) completed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form. A Birth Parent Contact Preference Form and/or a Birth Parent Medical History Form may also be released if completed forms have been submitted by the birth parent(s).

The following information is needed in order to find and match your application with Bureau of Vital Records files. Please provide as much accurate information as you can to avoid delays and increase the likelihood of being able to process this application. The Bureau of Vital Records will notify you if no record is found.

A NON-REFUNDABLE SEARCH FEE OF \$15 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION. Make check or money order payable to: **Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.** Mail to: Bureau of Vital Records, P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570.

PLEASE PRINT

The following information will be used to identify the adoptee's record:

FULL NAME OF CHILD ON ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE (IF KNOWN)			
DATE OF BIRTH		MISSOURI CITY AND COUNTY WHERE BORN	
BIRTH MOTHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE) (IF KNOWN)			
BIRTH FATHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE) (IF KNOWN)			
FULL NAME OF CHILD AFTER ADOPTION			
DATE OF ADOPTION (IF KNOWN)		PLACE OF ADOPTION (IF KNOWN)	
ADOPTIVE MOTHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE)			
ADOPTIVE FATHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE)			
APPLICANT'S NAME		RELATIONSHIP TO ADOPTEE <input type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney for Adoptee	
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER			
I _____, subject to the penalty of perjury, do solemnly declare and affirm that I am eligible to receive a noncertified copy of the original birth certificate requested above and that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.			
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT			DATE
NOTARY PUBLIC EMBOSSER SEAL	STATE		COUNTY
	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME, THIS		USE RUBBER STAMP IN CLEAR AREA BELOW.
	DAY OF	YEAR	
	NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE		MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
NOTARY PUBLIC NAME (TYPED OR PRINTED)			

ADOPTION SEARCH AGENCIES

Bethesda Home for Unwed Mothers - Bethesda Dilworth

3655 Vista

St. Louis, MO 63110

(Bethesda General – 314-772-9200--*files lost in fire*)

Children's Home Society of MO

314-968-2350

9445 Litzsinger Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63144

Ms. Laura Winters

Epworth Children's Home

314-961-5718, ex. 3378

110 N. Elm

St. Louis, MO 63119

(aka: **Epworth School for Girls, Methodist Orphan's Home**)

Good Shepherd Family and Children's Services

314-854-5728

1340 Partridge Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63130

Mr. Tom Fellin

(previously known as **Catholic Services for Children and Youth, Catholic Charities, St. Ann's Foundling Home, Helping Hand, Board of Religious Organizations**)

Marilyn L. Graham, LCSW

636-368-6025

Jewish Family and Children's Services

314-993-1000

10950 Schuetz Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63146-5704

Mr. Peter Walker

(aka: **Sommers' Children's Welfare Bureau**)

Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Mo.

314-787-5100

9666 Olive Blvd Ste 400

St. Louis MO 63132-3025

Christine Corcoran

Sandi Green

Missouri Baptist Children's Home 314-739-6811
11300 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63044
Christy Grimes

Missouri Children's Division 314-340-7200
111 North 7th Street
St. Louis, MO 63101
Mark Tomczak
(previously **Board of Children's Guardians, Division of Children's Services, Missouri Division of Family Services**)

Provident Counseling* 314-533-8230
2650 Olive
St. Louis, MO 63103
(previously: **Children's Aid Society, St. Louis Provident Assn., Family and Children's Services of Greater St. Louis, Family and Personal Support Centers**)
*Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri has the agency records and does their searches

National Benevolent Association 314-993-9000
733 Union Blvd #300
St Louis MO 63108-1037

(St. Louis Christian Home, ECHO, St. Louis Orphanage.)

Court of Equity - Name Changes 314-622-4321

Archives Department, Recorder of Deeds 314-622-4610
City of St. Louis
Room 126 – City Hall
1200 Market St.
St. Louis, MO 63103-2881
(adoption records for City of St. Louis from mid-1917 and earlier; their records are open to the public)

INDEPENDENT ADOPTION SEARCHERS

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Laura Winters

314-220-7007

Ljwinters16@gmail.com