

What Information Is Available?

There is always the possibility that your birth relative has placed consents in the file allowing for some form or level of contact. In addition, the PAIR can be contacted with a request for non-identifying information. Family Design Resources cannot petition PAIR for your information, but you can. Any search always begins with an inquiry to the PAIR.

If the PAIR does not yield non-identifying information or consents for identifying information or contact, a Family Design Resources Authorized Representative (AR) can assist you by reviewing the adoption record to provide you with a summary of non-identifying information. An AR can also conduct a search for your relative to get updated information or to obtain consent for exchange of information or contact.

Non-identifying information includes details such as age, ethnicity, level of education, career, religion, marital status, medical history, the existence of siblings, circumstances of the adoption and description of adoptive family.

Identifying information is the name at the time of the adoption and last known address.

May I just request non-identifying information?

Yes.

What if the search finds my birth relative to be deceased?

Typically an adoption search will provide you with their name at time of adoption.

May I just request medical information?

If there is any in the file, it is included with the non-identifying information.

Why do I have to pay to get my information?

Locating, reading and summarizing adoption files can take hours. There is the expense of time and travel to review the record. Some search subjects can take a great deal of investigation to locate after 20+ years. In some cases, very limited information is known, such as first name and year of birth. Other cases involve skilled counseling and intermediary services.

No two search cases are alike and each case should be managed by an experienced and highly skilled adoption searcher who values diligence, respect, sensitivity, confidentiality, empathy and professionalism.

Can my request be denied?

Yes, if it is felt that the contact could be dangerous or harmful to one of the parties.



In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.

—Alex Haley

Adoption Search Services

Expert. Confidential. Timely.



FAMILY
DESIGN
RESOURCES

For More Information, Contact:

Adoption Search
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717.558.1243
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Searching for a birth sibling, the child you placed for adoption or your birth parents can be a scary, emotionally draining, and intimidating process. You don't have to do this alone. Family Design Resources can conduct your adoption search confidentially, efficiently and in a manner that's sensitive to your individual circumstances. We can help.

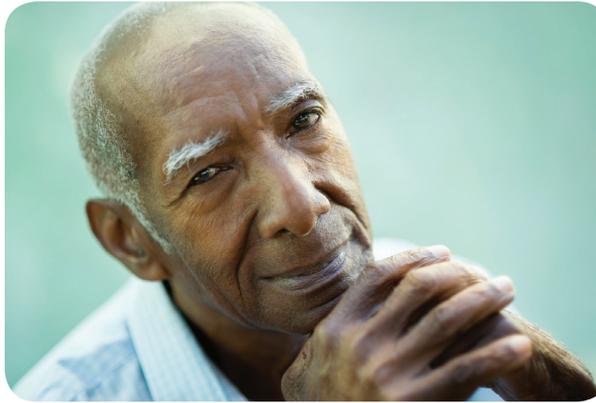


Two Purposes

- Provide adoption search and reunion services to individuals seeking to locate their birth relatives.
- Enable agencies to respond immediately to individuals requesting an adoption search.

Act 101

Act 101 of 2010 allows Pennsylvania adoptees, birth parents and, in some cases, adoptive parents, grandparents, siblings and descendants to obtain information about their adoption with the help of a trained, credentialed **Authorized Representative (AR)** and without the need for an attorney, court hearing or court order.



What Can FDR Do For Me?

Initial Service

- Assist you with determining which Pennsylvania county finalized the adoption
- Direct you to no-cost resources that may offer details about the adoption
- Clarify the search options available to you

Adoption Search Services (Authorized Rep.)

- Review the adoption file and summarize non-identifying information
- Conduct a search for your biological relative and ask them if they are willing to share information and have contact
- Facilitate any confidential exchanges of information or items (letters/pictures)
- Facilitate a reunion
- Assist you with submitting your information to the PAIR regardless of the outcome of the search
- **It really is okay to seek your information!**

Who Can Search?

An adoptee can search when they are 18 years of age or older. An adoptee can be sought when they are age 21 or older.

- An adoptee who is 18 (or younger with consent from adoptive parents or legal guardian)
- Descendants of a deceased adoptee
- Birth parents of an adoptee age 21 or older
- Birth grandparents with consent of birth parent or if birth parent is deceased or incapacitated
- Siblings when both are age 21 or older
 - with the consent of birth parents
 - without the consent of birth parents when both were raised outside of the birth family or the birth parent is deceased or incapacitated

The Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry (PAIR)

PAIR is a registry database for all parties to an adoption to register their information so that it can be available to their biological relative or descendants. Information may include non-identifying information, medical information or consents to contact. It is recommended that all parties to an adoption register even if they are not currently seeking information in order to maintain a genealogical history.

For more information, visit

www.adoptpakids.org/PaeAmhr.aspx