

About Family Design Resources, Inc.

Family Design Resources, Inc. (FDR), founded in 1999, is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that promotes and supports the well-being of children and families through the provision of consultation and training to professionals within agencies and institutions, public and private, serving children and families throughout Pennsylvania and beyond.

As the program administrator for Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN), FDR supports a provider network, which includes 67 county children and youth agencies and 80 private provider agencies, in their delivery of direct services and development of best practices; oversees the SWAN Helpline, which assists families interested in adoption; and provides assistance to the Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association. The SWAN Legal Services Initiative (LSI) was developed by FDR and places paralegals trained in child welfare law in county children and youth agencies in order to identify and eliminate legal barriers moving children to permanency more quickly and efficiently.

FDR's Adoption Search Program goal is to set a standard of best practice for the delivery of adoption search services within Pennsylvania. As the endorsed provider of training for Authorized Representatives, it is the agency's intent to cultivate a statewide community of search professionals that both supports and challenges this developing practice in Pennsylvania. We will do this by encouraging practice-related dialogue among Authorized Representatives, providing opportunities for continuous learning, and engaging skilled searchers in the services provided.

For More Information, Contact:

Adoption Search
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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.



Compliance with Act 101 of 2010 presents challenges to courts, county children and youth agencies (CCYAs), and private adoption agencies by straining capacity and resources. The law requires that every court, CCYA and licensed adoption agency have an Authorized Representative (AR) who responds to requests for and performs adoption searches on behalf of the agency. FDR's program transfers this responsibility from your agency to ours.



Two Purposes

- Provides outsourced Authorized Representative services to agencies to be compliant with Act 101.
- Provides adoption search and reunion services to individuals seeking to locate their birth relatives.



Agency Benefits

The benefits to agencies include:

- Requires no fee from the agency.
- Reduces costs by eliminating the need for ongoing training and support for ARs.
- Preserves agency staff time for other responsibilities.
- Reports from FDR ensure timely compliance with the Act 101.
- Eliminates the need to set up a search fee model and collect fees.
- Provides confidence that search requests are managed and facilitated by a trained Authorized Representative.
- Eliminates the need to seek or train a replacement when an AR leaves an agency.
- Assures confidential, sensitive and timely responses for qualified individuals seeking a search.

How the Program Works

1. The agency enters into an agreement with Family Design Resources. For CCYAs and licensed adoption agencies, this involves a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines roles and expectations agreeable to both parties. In the case of a court system, a President Judge may wish to issue a court order appointing an AR from FDR for all adoption search requests received by the court or on a case-by-case basis.
2. Next, the court or agency refers search inquiries to FDR's Adoption Search Program. FDR will receive the referral and work directly with the search client from this point forward.
3. FDR will contract with the client to fulfill a request for non-identifying information, identifying information or contact. This will involve a review of the adoption record and may involve an adoption search, exchange of information between both parties, and a facilitated reunion.
4. FDR will provide the court or agency with documentation of the search case which includes the timeframes in which a request was acknowledged and information provided according to Act 101 mandates.