



## Adoption

<https://www.gov.uk/adoption-records>  
or go to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and work from there.  
Births, Deaths, Marriages and Care / Adoption records

Children, grandchildren, partners and other relatives of adopted adults can now trace back through their ancestors' lives with the consent of the adopted person with exceptions.

### Adoption records

Using the Adoption Contact Register

You can only find the whereabouts of an adopted person or birth relative if they have chosen to be entered on the Contact Register. Applicants can also record a wish for specific or no contact with a named individual.

### Contacting a birth relative if you are adopted

You can add your details to the Adoption Contact Register if you are over 18, your birth was registered with the General Register Office, and you know:  
your original birth name; your date of birth; the full name(s) of your birth mother (and birth father if known)

If you do not have all this information, you can apply for access to your birth record.

### Finding your original birth or adoption record

If you were adopted, at 18 you can apply for a certificate of your original birth registration form. Your birth relatives also have the right to apply for permission to contact you. Here's some information about how to research your biological family.

Finding your original birth details if you are adopted

If you were adopted through a court in England or Wales and are aged 18 years or over, you can apply for a certificate of your original birth entry and try to find information about your origins.

If you were born in England or Wales but adopted in Scotland, Northern Ireland or overseas, you need to contact the General Register Office for that country to access your own birth records.

General Register Office for Scotland

General Register Office for Northern Ireland

How to apply

To obtain the relevant forms:

- you can download the forms below in English or Welsh
- or you can call the General Register Office on 0151 471 4830 to request the forms

Once you've completed your form, post it to: Adoptions section, Room C202, General Register Office, Trafalgar Rd, Southport PR8 2HH. Or you could fax it to: 0151 471 4755.

What happens next depends whether you were adopted before or after 1975.

If you were adopted before 1975, you will need to attend a meeting with an adoption advisor. If you were adopted after 1975, you may request a meeting or receive the information directly. Where applicable, an adoption advisor from your chosen organisation will contact you to arrange an interview.

You also have the option of approaching an approved intermediary agency about access to birth records to help make contact with a birth relative.

Download ' Access to birth records application form - England and Wales' (PDF, 41K)

Needed:

Details given at Adoption

Adoptive surname

Adoptive forename(s)

Date of birth

Country of birth (if known)

Name of adoptive mother (Please state even if birth mother) Name of adoptive father

(Please state even if birth father) Date of adoption (if known)

Person adopted before 12th November 1975

I understand that before I can receive this information I must attend a meeting with an approved adoption advisor. (Go to Section A, then complete Section B)

Person adopted on or after 12th November 1975 I understand that if I wish to see an adoption advisor I can choose to do so. I wish to see an adoption advisor. (Go to Section A, then complete Section B) I do not wish to see an adoption advisor. (Complete Section B)

Section A. I am living in the UK and would prefer my meeting to take place at: (one of the following)

i The General Register Office, Southport, Merseyside.

ii The Local Authority where I am currently living.

iii An alternative Local Authority outside the area where I am currently living. (please specify)

iv An Intermediary Agency (Must be registered for this service - please specify)

v I would prefer my meeting to take place with the arranging adoption society whose name and address is:

Section B. I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief I am the adopted person to whom the above particulars relate. Current signature Date

Print current name Current address

Telephone/mobile number Email address

General Register Office is part of the Identity and Passport Service

Also: Adoption Search Reunion website.

<http://reunion.adoption.com/>

This website is intended to be the first port of call for anyone thinking about searching for or making contact with birth and adopted relatives or researching an adoption that took place in the UK. Here you can: Search for the location of adoption records, Look for agencies that offer support services in your area, Find out about recent changes to the legislation, and other information.