

Free adoption websites

- www.findme.org
You must establish an account, but searches are free
- www.adopted.com
Both free and paid membership options
- <https://registry.adoption.com>
Register and post a profile



Paid adoption websites

- www.Ancestry.com
- www.myheritage.com



Prepared by the
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Researching your Adoption



*Were you adopted as a child?
Are you working on your family
history?*

This flyer outlines steps to follow if you have decided to include your biological family history with your family tree, including:

- How to begin your search
- Where to find adoption laws and statutes
- Identifying vs. non-identifying information
- Records available to you by written request or court order within New England

Getting started

1. If possible, talk with your adoptive parents to see if they have any information or documents that might aid in your research.
2. If you know the identity of the adoption agency or attorney who arranged your adoption, leave a letter with them asking that if your birth parents contact them, to please give them your contact information.
3. If your state has an adoption reunion registry, sign up! If you birth parents are registered, you will be notified.
4. Do you live in a state and county with open adoption records? If so, and you are 18 years or older ask the state for a copy of your original birth certificate.
5. If you know the names and approximate ages of your birth parents, conduct an online search. Sometimes there is a small fee. There are also many paid services that may assist you, such as <http://birthparentfinder.com>
6. If you don't know names, but you know the state, county, hospital date, and time of birth, go to the county courthouse and look at the birth certificates for that date to see if your parents' names are listed.

Record availability

Adoption statute and law information is available at www.childwelfare.gov and <https://adopteerightslaw.com>

Identifying information:

Generic information about a person: name, date/time of birth, city/town of birth, county, state

Non-identifying information:

Usually given to adoptive parents at the time of adoption; examples include:

- Medical & health information about the child and birth parents' families at the time of placement
- Whether the birth parents have other children
- Why the birth parents placed the child for adoption
- Date and place of birth
- Parents' ages and/or physical descriptions
- Race, ethnicity, religion

Massachusetts

- Birth certificates available by request for births before 07/17/1974 or after 01/01/2008
- Court order required for adult adoptees born between 1974 and 2008 to obtain original birth certificate
- Non-identifying information can be released to adult adoptees by placement agency
- Mutual consent for release of identifying information

Connecticut

Unrestricted

- Adult adoptee has access to original birth certificate
- Birth parent written consent required for release of identifying information

Maine

Unrestricted

- Adult adoptee has access to original birth certificate
- Mutual consent required for release of identifying information (voluntary "reunion registry")

New Hampshire

Unrestricted

- Adult adoptee has access to original birth certificate
- Court order or mutual consent required for release of identifying information

Rhode Island

Unrestricted

- Adult adoptee has access to original birth certificate
- Mutual consent for release of identifying information (voluntary "reunion registry")

Vermont

Restricted by date: 07/01/1986

- Adult adoptees born after this date may obtain information unless birth parent has filed affidavit denying release of confidential records
- Birth parent written consent on file required for those born before this date