

Adult Adoption Counselling Service



Birth Records Counselling for Adoptees

Families for Children provides access to birth records and supportive counselling to adult adoptees. This service is open to any adoptee placed by the agency. Each adoption is unique. Adoptees need time and space to develop their understanding of the circumstances surrounding their own adoption. Where we began, is part of who we are and naturally involves our emotions, these need time to be explored.

As an adult at the age of eighteen, you have the right to apply to the General Register Office (GRO) - details below, to obtain a copy of your birth certificate, our agency can help with this.

General Register Office
Room C202, Smedley Hydro,
Trafalgar Road
Southport PR8 2HH

Tel **0300 1231837**
or visit the website www.gro.gov.uk
adoptions@gro.gsi.gov.uk

As the nature of adoption has developed over time, the law draws a line between those adopted before and after the 12th November 1975. Those adopted before this date, who don't already know their birth details, are required to see a counsellor to discuss the implications before this is given them.

01364 645480

info@familiesforchildren.org.uk



Families for Children
ADOPTION

www.familiesforchildren.org.uk

Mediation work between Adoptees and Birth Relatives

This work can lead to requests from adoptees for help making contact with birth relatives. Changes to the law have made possible similar requests from birth relatives for contact with an adopted person. Families for Children will undertake this work with the welfare of all affected in mind and having decided this is safely achievable. This includes enabling each to reach a realistic expectation of what may come of this contact, an appropriate say in arrangements and control of their personal details. Birth relatives are in a different starting position in this regard, as if they are parents, their details as given at the time of the adoption, will be known to the adoptee.

Adoptees and birth relatives are helped with actual contact and are also able to return to the agency for further advice at any later stage.

Before progressing tracing and mediation work the agency will contact the NHS to establish your relative survives and apply to the Contact Register held by the GRO, to see whether any wishes have been registered by the other party. There is a separate booklet that we can give you, but it should be noted that as an Adoptee or Birth Relative, your wishes can be registered centrally with the GRO.

If as an adoptee you don't want contact our agency can mark your file to show there is a Veto. A separate explanatory leaflet is available. A Veto can be "absolute", meaning even an adoption agency may not contact you or "qualified" meaning you can be specific as to the circumstances and by whom you might be contacted.

Times are changing...

For the most part adoptees seen for this service were "given up" to adoption as babies, admittedly where circumstances were very difficult. In more recent years however, this kind of arrangement has become quite rare and most children placed for adoption, are so placed after intervention and removal by Local Authority social workers because of concerns. This history adds a dimension of risk, when there is a question of later renewed contact for an adult adoptee and in these circumstances Families for Children will re-involve a Local Authority, to ensure the risk is understood and manageable.

More information is available generally about overall adult adoption services by looking at your Local Authority website, and the British Agency for Adoption and Fostering website:
www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk

Supporting Families for Children

Families for Children a Charity. We hope that your experience of our service is a good one and would be very pleased to hear back from you. The investment of professional time involved providing this service is funded by charitable donations. Our average Agency expense for each case is £510. While there is no formal charge, we would ask for a donation that goes some way towards to meeting our cost.

To make your donation

Our bank details for electronic transfer are:

Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account Code: 00024865

Please add the reference "Adoption Support" in your payment details.

Or our Business Manager can be contacted on 01364 645480 or email finance@familiesforchildren.org.uk

Alternatively you can text **FFCT13** £ amount to **70070**

Or use our donor envelope to forward your donation.

Thank you, as without funding this service cannot be provided.

If you are unhappy about any aspect of the service our Complaints Procedure leaflet is available to you and as part of your initial information pack.

