

# THE ADOPTION & MEDICAL INFORMATION REGISTRY



Help for  
Adoptees,  
Their  
Birth Parents  
& Biological  
Siblings

If you are adopted, or if you placed a child for adoption, or if you are the biological sibling of an adopted person, you may wish to learn more about your birth family. The New York State Health Department's Adoption Information Registry can help and even facilitate a reunion.

While adoption and birth records remain confidential and under court seal, an adoptee who was born or adopted in New York State, the birth parent of that adoptee, or the biological sibling of that adoptee can register with the Adoption Information Registry to obtain certain kinds of information.

## What Kinds of Information are Available?

Three kinds of information are available: non-identifying, identifying and medical.

### Non-Identifying Information:

If you are adopted you can get non-identifying information about your birth parents even if they do not register with the Adoption Registry or consent to sharing. This includes their general appearance, religion, ethnicity, race, education, occupation, etc.; as well as the name of the agency that arranged the adoption, and facts and circumstances relating to the nature and cause of the adoption.

### Identifying Information:

If all are registered and all have given their final consents, adoptees and their birth parents, or adoptees and their biological siblings can share their current names and addresses.

### Medical Information:

Birth parents can give medical and psychological information to the Registry any time after the adoption. If the adoptee is already registered, the information will be shared with him or her. If the adoptee is not registered, the information will be kept until the adoptee registers. This information is important to adoptees because it can indicate if they have a higher risk of some diseases. Medical information updates must be certified by a licensed health care provider.

### The Adoption and Medical Information Registry cannot:

- search for missing registrants;
- release copies of original birth certificates or adoption records;
- release non-identifying or medical information to birth parents;
- respond to medical emergencies.

## Who can register?

The Registry can only accept a registration from an adoptee who was born or adopted in New York State and is at least 18 years old. However, an adoptee who is under 18 years old can register to receive medical information updates, if an adoptive parent signs the application.

A birth parent may register only if the adoptee is eligible to register.

## How long will it take?

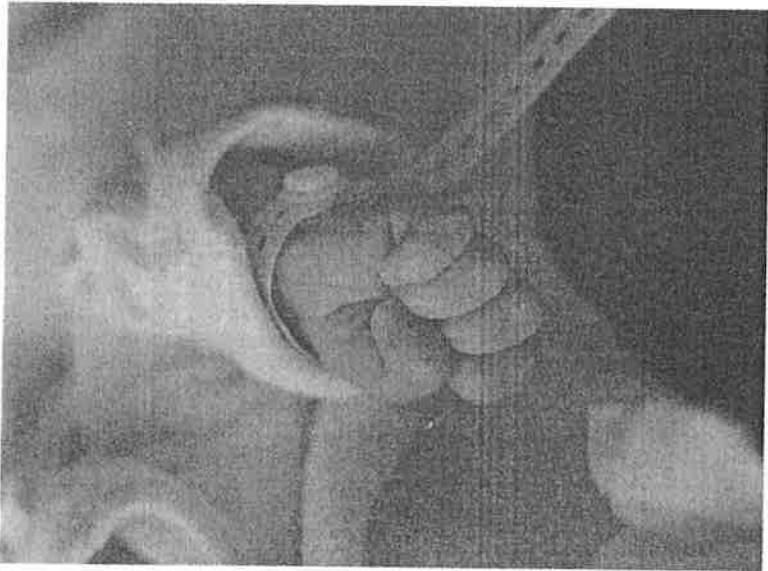
Any medical information already submitted by birth parents will be given shortly after an adoptee registers. It will take at least six months to obtain general non-identifying information. It may take years to receive identifying information or it may never be available. This is because it cannot be released until all necessary parties have registered and consented to the release of the information.

## What are the fees?

There is no fee to register with the Adoption Registry. However, some adoption agencies charge up to \$50 to provide non-identifying information to the Adoption Registry. The adoptee must pay any agency fee.

## What if the adoption was handled by an adoption agency?

Some adoption agencies will provide non-identifying information directly to adoptees. They can provide information sooner than the Adoption Registry. An adoptee can contact the adoption agency to ask about services it can provide and the fees charged for providing the service. Most adoption agencies do not charge a fee.



### **For more information...**

For more information or for registration forms,  
contact:

**Adoption Information Registry**  
**New York State Department of Health**  
**PO Box 2602**  
**Albany, NY 12220-2602**

Forms and information are also available on our  
web site at:

**[www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)**

Because of the confidential nature of the registry,  
all applications, requests for status updates and  
address changes must be received by mail.