

Post Legal Adoption Services

Following finalization of the adoption, the adoptive parents may access the following services available through DHS. These services include:

- The Voluntary Adoption Registry
- The Assisted Search Program, and;
- The Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center.

The Voluntary Adoption Registry and the Assisted Search Program may also be accessed by adult adoptees and birth families.

Pamphlet 8601 provides information about the Voluntary Adoption Registry and the Assisted Search Program.

Voluntary Adoption Registry

The Voluntary Adoption Registry was created in 1983 to assist adoptees, birth parents, and other eligible persons who wish to learn more about an adoption finalized in the State of Oregon. The registry creates a method of communicating information while preserving confidentiality and respecting the right to privacy.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for maintaining a registry for all adoptions not handled by a private adoption agency. Private adoption agencies in Oregon maintain their own mutual consent registries (registries where adult adoptees, birth parents, putative fathers, and other eligible persons may register their consent to the release of identifying information) and some are eligible to conduct a search. If the person wishing to use the registry does know if the adoption was through a private adoption agency, a private adoption attorney or DHS (Children, Adults and Families), he or she can call the Oregon Adoption Registry at 503-945-6643. The Department of Human Services Adoption Services Unit maintains a database for adoptions of all minor children finalized in Oregon beginning in early 1920.

Legislation passed in 1993 allows confidential searches to be performed by the Department of Human Services and some licensed private adoption agencies. The purpose of the search is to attempt to contact eligible persons to inform them of the provisions of the mutual consent registry.

Legislation passed in 1997 added putative (alleged) fathers to some voluntary adoption registry services.

Mutual Consent Registry

This registry allows adult adoptees, birth parents, putative fathers, and other eligible persons may register to consent to the release of identifying information. When more than one person who was a party to a specific adoption registers on a mutual consent

registry, a match can be made and names and addresses of the registering parties can be exchanged. If the adoptee is deceased the adoptive parent may place their name on the mutual consent registry. If the birth parent is deceased an eligible member of the birth parent's family may register on the mutual consent registry. A copy of the adoptee's and the birth parent's death certificate will be required.

To register, an individual must return the Affidavit for Identifying Information form along with the fee of \$25.00. The form must be notarized and submitted with a copy of the applicant's state issued birth certificate. Hospital certificates, baptismal certificates, and the pre-adoption record cannot be accepted in lieu of the state issued birth certificate. The applicant will be notified within a few weeks if a match can be made. Call the Oregon Adoption Registry, 503-945-6643, if you have questions regarding this procedure.

Non-Identifying Information

This is information gathered at the time the adoption took place. It is genetic, social and health history information (i.e., physical description, illnesses, ethnic origins, age) contained in the file. Generally no new information is available unless the file has been updated. Non-identifying information will not include the names and addresses of any person or information pertaining to adoptive parents.

Persons eligible to register for non-identifying information are an adult adoptee, a birth parent, or an adoptive parent. If the adoptee is deceased any progeny of the adoptee age eighteen years or older or the adoptee's spouse is eligible to request non-identifying birth parent information.

To register, the individual must return the Request for Non-Identifying Information form along with the fee of \$45.00. It generally takes 6 to 8 weeks for the non-identifying information to be received by the applicant. Call the Oregon Adoption Registry, 503-945-6643, if you have questions regarding this procedure.

Assisted Search Program

The Assisted Search Program allows the Department of Human Services and eligible private adoption agencies to conduct a search by an adult adoptee for a birth parent, or a search by a birth parent for an adult adoptee. An adult adoptee may also search for their adult genetic sibling. If the birth parent is deceased, other family members may be eligible to request a search for the adoptee. The adoptive parent may request a search if the adoptee is a minor or if the adoptee is deceased. A copy of the death certificate is required if the birth parent or the adoptee are deceased.

The purpose of the Assisted Search Program is to inform the person being sought of the provisions of the mutual consent registry. Searches are conducted in a confidential manner that assures the privacy of all parties. If the person being sought wishes to pursue contact, they will be sent registration forms. Identifying information is not released to either party until both parties have given their permission. If the person being sought does not wish to make contact, the active search for that particular person is closed. The

requestor's registration on the mutual consent registry remains active. Registration on a mutual consent registry with the appropriate adoption registry is required before an assisted search can be requested.

In 1997, legislation was added stating if the reason the person is requesting the search is because there is a serious inheritable medical condition in the person's immediate family, this information can be shared at first contact. The person being sought must be biologically related to the person requesting the search.

To request a search, an individual will return the Assisted Search Application along with the fee of \$400. This form must be notarized, and returned with a copy of the applicant's birth certificate. Call the Oregon Adoption Registry, 503-945-6643, if you have questions regarding this procedure.

Preadoption Record

An Oregon born adoptee twenty-one years and older can obtain his or her pre-adoption record, also known as the original birth certificate. Call the Oregon Health Division at 503-731-4108 or access their web page <http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/chs/certif/preadopt.cfm> for the registration form and fee information.

Contact Preference Form for Birth Parents of Adopted Children

As a result of an Oregon born adoptee being able to obtain a copy of his or her original birth certificate, in 1999 the Oregon legislature passed a bill which allows birth parents to file a Contact Preference Form to indicate if the birth parent wants contact, does not want contact, or wants contact through an intermediary. If the adoptee requests the original birth certificate, the Contact Preference Form, if one has been filed, will be included and will indicate the contact preference of the birth parent. The Contact Preference Form is non-binding.

If the birth parent wants contact or contact through an intermediary, the Contact Preference Form is returned directly to Oregon Vital Records to be attached to the original birth certificate.

If a birth parent does not want contact, before the Contact Preference Form can be accepted by Oregon Vital Records, an Updated Birth Parent Medical Form must be filled out and sent to the appropriate Oregon Adoption Registry which will issue a notarized Certificate of Receipt of Updated Birth Parent Medical information. The notarized Certificate of Receipt, along with the Contact Preference Form, is sent to Oregon Vital Records to be attached to the original birth certificate. The updated medical information remains with the adoption registry.

If the Contact Preference Form is filed within six months of issuing the pre-adoption birth certificate, Oregon Vital Records will forward the form to the address of the adoptee listed on the order form.

Call the Oregon Health Division at 503-731-4108 or the Oregon Adoption Registry at 503-945-6643 to request the Contact Preference Form, or access the Oregon Vital Records home page at <http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/chs>

Resource Guide and Oregon Administrative Rules

Registration forms, a resource guide, and the Oregon Administrative Rules governing the registry and assisted search program are available in an information packet.

Send completed registry forms to the following address:

Human Services Building
Children, Adults and Families
Adoptions Program
500 Summer Street NE, E71
Salem, OR 97301-1068

home page:

http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/adoption/adopt_registry/registry.shtml

Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)

In recognition that adoptive parents need support and information to care for the children who have joined their families, ORPARC was organized. The Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center is a program of Northwest Resource Associates, funded with a grant of federal and state monies from the Department of Human Services. ORPARC was created to provide

- Information and referral
- A lending library
- Training
- Support
- Assistance developing respite resources

Adoption Assistance Unit Responsibility

The central office Adoption Assistance Unit will notify ORPARC when Adoption Assistance is opened for a family. ORPARC then sends a welcome packet to the adoptive family.

ORPARC Services Eligibility

To be eligible for services, a family must have adopted a child through the Department of Human Services, and be residing in Oregon. The Center's hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Telephone lines stay open on Tuesday and Thursday until 7 pm.

Contact numbers for ORPARC are:

Toll free: 1-800-764-8367
Portland area: 503-241-0799
E-mail: ORPARC@nwresource.org
Fax : 503-241-0925
Web site: www.orparc.org
(KC 12/13; 12/15/05)