

What information is available?

Non-identifying information:

- a. A summary of information from the adoption record — about the adoptee's history, the adoption and the adoptive parents
- b. A summary of information from the adoption record — about the birthparents, any birth siblings and the adoptee's background (e.g., health, genetic and social)

Identifying information:

Facts that will help to establish the identity and location of:

- An adoptee
- A birthparent
- A birth sibling

This might include their full name, date of birth and last known address.

Adoptee's original birth certificate:

A non-certified copy of the adoptee's original birth certificate.

Who can request it?

Non-identifying information:

- Birthparents
- Birth grandparents
- Birth siblings (half or whole)

- Adult (18+) or emancipated adoptees
- Adoptive parents
- Adoptees' legal custodians/guardians
- Direct descendants of deceased adoptees or their parents/guardians if under 18

Identifying information:

- Adult (18+) or emancipated adoptees
- Direct descendants of deceased adoptees or their parents/guardians if under 18
- Birthparents
- Birth siblings (18+)

See the back page to learn more about getting identifying information.

Adoptee's original birth certificate:

- Birthparents
Send a copy of some form of identification such as a driver's license with your request.

- Adoptees born in Vermont and legally entitled to identifying information
Send a copy of either a letter from the Registry or a court order authorizing its release to you along with your request.

Where do I get it?

Non-identifying information:

Contact the agency that handled the adoption. If you don't know the name of the agency, contact the Registry for a referral.

The Registry can provide non-identifying information if:

- The agency is no longer active
- There was no agency involved
- It was a state adoption

Identifying information:

- Only the Registry can release identifying information without a court order.
- If you have a court order, you may also contact the agency that handled the adoption.

Adoptee's original birth certificate:

Send your request along with the supporting document listed in the previous column to:

Vital Records Office
Vermont Department of Health
PO Box 70
Burlington, VT, 05402-0070
1-800-439-5008

Can I get identifying information?

Adoptions finalized before July 1, 1986:

- ▶ The mutual consent of the adult adoptee and birthparent or sibling is required

Adoptions finalized on or after July 1, 1986:

- ▶ Identifying information about a birthparent may be released to an adoptee upon request, unless the birthparent has requested non disclosure
- ▶ Identifying information about an adoptee or birth sibling may only be released with his/her consent

What if I'm denied information?

You may petition the court if:

- ▶ **Non-Identifying Information:**
You are denied non-identifying information you are entitled to by law
- ▶ **Identifying Information:**
 - You are the adoptee AND
 - The Registry has denied your request for identifying information

How do I petition the court?

Call the Registry at (802) 241-0906. We can explain the petition process and refer you to the appropriate court.

You can also read the relevant State law — Vermont Title 15A: Adoption Act — online at <http://legislature.vt.gov/statutes/title/15A>.

What if I want to be found?

Contact the Registry to file a consent to the release of identifying information about you. Be sure to inform the Registry if you move.

What if I don't want my identity disclosed?

Contact the Registry to file a request for nondisclosure. This does not, however, guarantee that you won't be found.

Is there a cost?

The Registry, courts and agencies may charge reasonable fees to cover costs associated with compiling the information. Any fees will be disclosed in advance.

What if there is newly available health information?

Adoptive parents, adoptees and birth family members who become aware of health information that could seriously affect the health or reproductive decisions of another party should contact the Registry. We will attempt to notify the affected party as long as you have a certified statement from a physician confirming the information.

Vermont Adoption Registry
280 State Drive, HC 1 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-1030

(802) 241-0906

dcf.vermont.gov/vt-adoption-registry



The Vermont Adoption Registry

Finding Your Roots

 **VERMONT**
DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION