

Adoption Records Tips

Almost everyone has the need, and the right, to know their biological roots. For an adoptive child, and the adoptive parents, searching for adoption records can be a difficult and emotional process.

Obtaining factual family information can involve many hurdles, and finding the details can be extremely difficult. This does not mean that there isn't hope. There are legal steps that adopted children can take to find their biological parents, and proceedings to help biological parents find children that they'd placed for adoption. The first step to finding this historical information is to search adoption records.

State and provincial agencies and courts keep adoption records on file. However, these files are not readily available for public use. In order to obtain access to adoption records, you'll need to be prepared to exert a great deal of effort, spend a lot of time, and make repeat visits to court and agency offices. Understanding the legal restrictions and requirements involved in accessing adoption records can help you in your efforts.

Know the Laws

Each province and state sets individual adoption laws. The legal implications can vary depending upon the state, province or country. When researching the legalities involved in searching adoption records, be sure that you're studying the applicable laws. Depending on where the adoption took place, laws will vary as to the release of identifying and non-identifying information. Some restrictions will be in place to prevent the general public from gaining access to these records. Before being granted access to the files, you'll have to meet certain legal requirements. Check with the laws of your state or province to verify who can request the information, which details are available to you, and how to go about gaining access to the files.

Understand the Implications

Before you proceed in your search for adoption records, you'll need to do some honest soul searching. Be sure that you're prepared # emotionally and physically # for both the task at hand, and the information you'll find. Ask yourself why you are searching for this information. It's important to understand that obtaining access to adoption records can take time, money and a great deal of interest and determination. Above all, you'll need patience as the process can take weeks, months or even years to complete. Be ready, and understand the possible consequences.

Be Prepared

In the process of seeking and obtaining adoption records, you need to gather as much relevant information as possible. Begin with the basic details, like your birth date and the year and location that the adoption took place. Include any other information that you feel may be relevant. Ask your adoptive parents, relatives and family friends for any extra details. You might just be surprised at how much information they can provide. Be diligent in your search and speak frankly and honestly with anyone who may be able to help.

Write a Petition

The most important step in obtaining adoption records is to write a petition. Determine your state or provincial requirements. It may be as simple as writing a letter to the government agency or attorney's office, or it may require a more detailed and even costly process. Include your personal information, present address and medical information. Express the reasons why you need access to the adoption files, and be sure you're sending the letter and petition to the right person or department.

If you're interested in learning more about your biological roots, the information is available. Though it may take a lot of hard work and determination to uncover the details, your success will be worth the effort.