

Guide to Post-Adoption Services

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Introduction

This guide provides information on Saskatchewan's Post Adoption Registry Services. The services noted apply if adoptions were granted in the province. If you were born in Saskatchewan but adopted out of province, you are required to apply for services to the post adoption authority where you were adopted. The Post Adoption Registry can provide you with information on where to contact. Applications for service can be found online at <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/deplist.cfm?d=17&c=4111>

All applications must be accompanied by one (1), clear copy of government-issued identification (e.g. Driver's License, Health Card). If the copy is not clear, your application will be returned to you.

For questions, or to send in your application, contact:

Saskatchewan Post Adoption Registry
 10th Floor, 1920 Broad Street
 Regina, SK S4P 3V6
 Phone: (306) 787-3654
 Toll-free: 1-800-667-7539
 Fax: (306) 798-0038
 Email: postadoptionregistryinsask@gov.sk.ca

What Can You Apply For?

To know which services you may be eligible to receive, refer to the section in this guide that applies to your situation.

You are ↓	Birth Registration	Adoption Order	Non-Identifying Background	Medical Search for Diagnostic or Treatment Purposes	Voluntary Contact	Ongoing Exchange of Communication
Adult Adoptee	X	X	X	X	X	
Adult Child of Deceased Adult Adoptee*	X			X	X	
Birth Parent	X		X	X	X	✓
Adult Child of Deceased Birth Parent*	X			X	X	
Adoptive Parent		X	✓	X		✓
Extended Family					X	✓
Former Caregivers					X	

*Services provided with proof of death of the adult adoptee or birth parent of the adult adoptee. Proof of death includes a copy of a death certificate, death notice, funeral card or obituary.

✓ applies to requests for services when a child is considered a minor (under 18 years of age)

Part One – Services

Services for Adult Adoptees (adoptees who have reached the age of 18)

This section does not apply to individuals who were adopted by a stepparent or who were adopted as an adult. For information on services related to those types of adoptions, please refer to those sections.

Veto – You are eligible to place a Veto against the release of your identifying information on the birth registration **if you were adopted prior to January 1, 2017**. If you place a Veto, your identifying information will be removed from the birth registration before it is provided to your birth parent(s) or, if they are deceased, to their children. Your Veto will terminate upon your death.

Contact Preference - You are eligible to place a Contact Preference that accompanies the release of the identifying birth registration, which applies regardless when your adoption was granted. . If you place a Contact Preference, your identifying information is released, but you have the opportunity to state what type of contact you want from your birth parent(s), including 'no contact'. Your Contact Preference will terminate upon your death.

Note: If your adoption was granted prior to January 1, 2017, you are not able to place both a veto and a contact preference, you can only place one or the other.

If you are an adult adoptee, you are eligible to apply for:

- **Birth Registration** - Your birth registration contains information such as the names of your birth parent(s), place of birth and the name of hospital where you were born. The information contained on the birth registration is subject to any Vetoes or Contact Preferences that may have been placed by your birth parent(s). Your birth registration cannot be released to you until six months after your eighteenth birthday.
- **Birth Father Search** - If the birth father was not named on the birth registration, a request may be made to search for him if he is named in the file document. Birth fathers located by the Registry are able to *consent to or decline* release of their name.
- **Adoption Order** - A copy of your adoption order, which includes your birth name, is automatically provided to you when you apply for your birth registration and/or non-identifying background information.
- **Non-Identifying Background Information (NIBI)** - Your NIBI includes information and documents from your adoption record, which, by law, must have third-party information removed.

- **Medical Search for Diagnostic of Treatment Purposes** – If you require current family medical information for diagnostic or treatment purposes, you may request a search to have birth family interviewed. Your request must be supported by a physician or medical professional, who is required to complete the second page of the health care professional questionnaire, stipulating why the information is medically necessary. The Registry will search for your birth parent(s) or, if they are unavailable, your nearest birth relatives. People who are contacted by the Registry are under no obligation to provide information.
- **Voluntary Contact** - When you apply for your birth registration, you have the option to place your name on a voluntary contact list. If any person, including extended family members or former caregivers also place their name on the voluntary contact list, the Registry will contact you to see if you would like to have their information. Your personal information will not be provided to them.

Forms You May Need

- [Contact Preference](#)
- [Acknowledgment of Contact Preference](#)
- [Veto](#)
- [Adult Adoptee Application for Services](#)
- [Application for Voluntary Contact](#)
- [Medical Search](#)

Services for Birth Parents

Veto – You are eligible to place a Veto against the release of your identifying information on the birth registration if your name appears on it, and **if the adoption occurred before January 1, 2017**. If you place a Veto, your identifying information will be removed from the birth registration before it is provided to the adult adoptee or, if they are deceased, to their children. Your Veto will terminate upon your death. You cannot place a Veto if your identifying information from your birth registration has already been released.

Contact Preference – You are eligible to place a Contact Preference that accompanies the release of the identifying birth registration, which applies regardless when the adoption was granted. If you place a Contact Preference, your identifying information is released, but you have the opportunity to state what type of contact you want from the adult adoptee, including ‘no contact’. Your Contact Preference will terminate upon your death.

Note: If the adoption was granted prior to January 1, 2017 you are not able to place both a Veto and a Contact Preference, you can only place one or the other.

If you are the birth parent of an adult adoptee, you are eligible to apply for:

- **Birth registration** - You may be eligible to receive the birth registration if you are a birth parent who is named on it. Birth registrations contain information such as your name, as well as the child's birth name, the place of birth and the name of the hospital. The information contained on the birth registration is subject to any Vetoes or Contact Preferences that may have been placed by the adult adoptee who is the subject of the birth registration. The birth registration cannot be released until six months after the adult adoptee's eighteenth birthday.
- **Search for Adult Adoptee** - If you are a birth father and your name does not appear on the birth registration, you may be eligible for a search for the adult adoptee based on file information. The Post Adoption Registry will advise you when this is the case. Adult adoptees who are located have the ability to *consent to or decline* release of their name to you.
- **Non-Identifying Background Information (NIBI)** - You may apply for a NIBI if it is confirmed you are a birth parent (i.e. your name appears on the birth registration, or a search confirms you are the birth father). A NIBI includes information and documents from the adoption record, which, by law, must have third-party information removed.
- **Certain Identifying Documents** - If you are a birth parent who has provided certain information on an adoption record (e.g. social history document), or signed a certain document, you may be eligible to receive a copy of this document without any information removed.
- **Medical Search for Diagnostic or Treatment Purposes** - As a birth parent it might be rare that you will need to seek medical information for diagnostic or treatment purposes, but you are able to do so by completing the Medical Search for Diagnostic or Treatment Purposes form. You must have your physician or medical professional support your request by completing the second page of the application. The adult adoptee (or if the adoptee is a minor the adoptive parent) is under no obligation to provide information to you. No identifying information is provided by the Post Adoption Registry to either individual.
- **Search to Provide Medical Information** - As a birth parent, there may be certain medical information you wish to provide to a child who has been adopted. You may contact the Registry and request a search to provide medical information to an adult adoptee (or if the adoptee is a minor the adoptive parent). The Registry will search for the adoptee or adoptive parent and ask them if they are willing to receive the information you wish to provide. No identifying information is provided by the Registry to either individual.
- **Voluntary Contact** - When you apply for the adult adoptee's birth registration, you have the option to place your name on a voluntary contact list. If any person, including extended family members or former caregivers (e.g. foster parents) also place their name on the voluntary contact list, the Registry will contact you to see if you would like to have their information. Your personal information will not be provided to them.
- **Ongoing Communication Exchange** - If you are a birth parent and the adoptee is a minor, you may be eligible to complete the application for voluntary contact and submit the form to the Post Adoption Registry. The application for voluntary contact is for the purposes of receiving

ongoing communication exchange with the adoptive family. Exchange of communication depends on the adoptive family also submitting their application for voluntary contact to the Registry and agreeing to accept communication. Communication is limited to letters, cards and pictures (the Registry is not able to exchange gifts). Communication is non-identifying, unless both parties mutually agree to share identities on their own. As a birth parent, you are also able to stipulate whether or not extended family or former caregivers are able to receive communication.

Forms You May Need

- [Contact Preference](#)
- [Acknowledgment of Contact Preference](#)
- [Veto](#)
- [Birth Parent Application for Services](#)
- [Application for Voluntary Contact](#)
- [Medical Search](#)

Services for Adult Children of Deceased Adult Adoptees or Deceased Birth Parents

If you are the adult child of a deceased adult adoptee or deceased birth parent, with proof of their death (copy of death certificate, death notice, funeral card or obituary) you are eligible to apply for:

- **Birth registration** - If you are the child of a deceased adult adoptee, the adult adoptee's birth name must appear on the birth registration. If you are the child of a deceased birth parent, the birth parent's name must appear on the birth registration. The birth registration will contain information such as birth parent name(s), birth name of the adult adoptee, location of birth and name of the hospital. The information contained on the birth registration is subject to any Vetoes or Contact Preferences that may have been placed by the adult adoptee or birth parent.
- **Birth Father Search** - If you are the child of a deceased adult adoptee and the birth father's name does not appear on the birth registration, you may be eligible for a search to locate him based on file information. Birth fathers who are located by the Registry are able to *consent to or decline* release of their name.
- **Search for Adult Adoptee** - If you are the child of a deceased birth parent and the birth parent's name does not appear on the birth registration, you may be eligible for a search to locate them based on file information. The Post Adoption Registry will advise you when this is the case. Adult adoptees who are located by the Registry are able to *consent to or decline* release of their name.
- **Voluntary Contact** - If you are the child of either a deceased adult adoptee or birth parent, you have the option when applying for the birth registration to place your name on a voluntary contact list on behalf of the deceased individual. If any person, including extended family members or former caregivers (e.g. foster parents) also place their name on the voluntary contact list, the Registry will contact you to see if you would like their information. Your personal information will not be provided to them.

Forms You May Need

- [Acknowledgment of Contact Preference](#)
- [Adult Child of Deceased Adult Adoptee](#)
- [Contact Preference](#)
- [Medical Search](#)
- [Application for Voluntary Contact](#)

Services for Adoptive Parents (adoptees who are under the age of 18)

If you are an adoptive parent, you are eligible to apply for:

- **Adoption Order** – Adoptive parents are eligible to apply for a copy of the adoption order whether the adoptee is *under or over* the age of 18.
- **Medical Search for Diagnostic of Treatment Purposes** – If an minor adoptee requires current family medical information for diagnostic or treatment purposes, the adoptive parents may request a search on their behalf. Requests must be supported by a physician or medical professional, who is required to complete the second page of the Medical Search for Diagnostic or Treatment Purposes Form, stipulating why the information is medically necessary. The Registry will search for the birth parents or, if they are unavailable, the nearest birth relatives. People who are contacted by the Registry are under no obligation to provide information.
- **Non-Identifying Background Information** – Individuals who adopt a child in care of the Minister receive non-identifying information on the child before adopting. This information is intended to assist prospective adoptive parents in understanding the child's needs. After an adoption occurs, adoptive parents may make a request for copies of lost documents.
- **Ongoing Communication Exchange** – If you are an adoptive parent and the adoptee is a minor, you may be eligible to complete the application for voluntary contact and submit the form to the Post Adoption Registry. The application for voluntary contact is for the purposes of receiving ongoing communication exchange with the birth family. Exchange of communication depends on the birth family also submitting their application for voluntary contact to the Registry and agreeing to accept communication. Communication is limited to letters, cards and pictures (the Registry is not able to exchange gifts). Communication is non-identifying, unless both parties mutually agree to share identities on their own. As an adoptive parent, you are also able to stipulate whether or not extended family or former caregivers are able to receive communication.

Forms You May Need

- [Adoptive Parent Application for Service](#)
- [Medical Search](#)
- [Application for Voluntary Contact](#)

Adult Adoptees Who Were Born in Saskatchewan but Adopted Out of Province

If you were born in Saskatchewan but adopted out of province, you may be eligible to apply for your birth registration in Saskatchewan under the new regulations, which come into effect January 1, 2017. Birth registrations will not be released until after that date. For all other services, you are required to apply to the post adoption authority where you were adopted.

Release of your birth registration is subject to restrictions (i.e. vetoes, contact preferences or similar provisions) placed by the birth parents in the jurisdiction where you were born. The province where the adoption was granted shall also be contacted to determine if they have provisions that would restrict the release of the birth registration in Saskatchewan.

Form You May Need

- [Adoptees Born in Saskatchewan but Adopted out of Province](#)

Services for Extended Family and Former Caregivers

Extended family members of adult adoptees and birth parents include anyone related to those individuals. To apply for services, you have to know at least the birth or adult name of the adopted person, or the name(s) of the birth parent(s).

Former caregivers may include individuals such as former foster parents who have an interest in an adult adoptee.

- **Voluntary Contact** - If you are an extended family member of an adult adoptee or birth parent, or a former caregiver of an adult adoptee, you may register to have voluntary contact with either the adult adoptee or birth parent. When you apply, your name is placed on a voluntary contact list. If the adult adoptee and birth parent also register their names, they will be provided your contact information. Information on the adult adoptee or birth parent is never provided by the Post-Adoption Registry to anyone else, and the Post Adoption Registry does not search for anyone as part of voluntary contact.
- **Ongoing Communication Exchange** - If you are an extended family member or former caregiver of an adoptee who is a minor, you may be eligible to complete the application for voluntary contact and submit the form to the Post Adoption Registry. The application for voluntary contact is for the purposes of receiving ongoing communication with with the child and adoptive family. Exchange of communication depends on both the birth and adoptive parent(s) also submitting their application for voluntary contact to the Registry and agreeing that exchange of communication can occur with individuals they specify. Communication is limited to letters, cards and pictures (the Registry is not able to exchange gifts). Communication is non-identifying, unless both parties mutually agree to share identities on their own. As an adoptive parent, you are also able to stipulate whether or not extended family or former caregivers are able to receive communication.

Forms You May Need

- [Application for Voluntary Contact](#)
- [Contact Preference](#)

Services for Stepparent and Adoptions of Adults

A stepparent adoption involves the adoption of a child by the spouse or partner of the birth parent. In a stepparent adoption, the following apply:

- Adult adoptee is able to apply for their birth registration and their adoption order.
- Birth parent is able to apply for the adult adoptee's birth registration if the birth parent's name appears on the document.
- Adoptive parent is able to apply for the adoption order whether the adoptee is a minor or an adult.

Form You May Need

- [Stepparent Adoption Application for Services](#)

An adoption of an adult (sometimes referred to as an 'Adult Adoption') involves the adoption of an individual who has attained the age of 18.

- Adult adoptee is able to apply for their birth registration and their adoption order.
- Adoptive parent is able to apply for the adoption order.

Form You May Need

- [Adult Adoption Application for Service](#)

If You Are First Nations

If you are First Nations and believe you may be entitled to Treaty Status, you must first apply to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for Treaty Status. To do so, you may require a copy of your adoption order, which you can request from the Post Adoption Registry. When you make application to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, they will request your background information from the Post Adoption Registry. The Post Adoption Registry provides this information directly back to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada so they may determine your Treaty Status.

Beneficiaries of Estates

The Post Adoption Registry will, at the request of the personal representative of a deceased person, search for an adoptee (or, if a minor, their guardian) who has been named as a potential beneficiary in a will. Adoptees are given information on how to contact the personal representative of the deceased person.

Part Two - Tips for Searching

Adult adoptees and birth parents who receive identifying information from the birth registration are able to search for each other. Depending on what information you receive, there are options to search on your own, or with the assistance of organizations that do genealogical research.

Adult adoptees receive from the birth registration:

- Birth parent name(s) – the birth mother’s name is always provided, and may either be her maiden or married name, depending on her situation at the time of the birth. The birth father’s name may or may not be listed on the birth registration, but it typically is if he was married to the birth mother at the time. Even if a birth father’s name appears on the birth registration, caution should be exercised as there is always the possibility it could be inaccurate because the mother provided the wrong name, or because the man listed was her husband at the time and not the birth father.
- Birth mother’s age, year of birth or exact birthdate may be provided.
- Birth mother’s address is found on the birth registration, though the address provided could be for the home of her parents or anyone she was staying with at the time, or it could be the address for a maternity home.
- Birth parents’ occupations may be listed on the birth registration. This type of information may also be included in the non-identifying background, though the non-identifying background will have specific information, such as names of work places, removed.
- Place of birth and name of hospital.

Birth parents receive from the birth registration:

- Birth child’s name after adoption (the names of the adoptive parents are not provided).
- Where and when adoption was finalized.
- Non-identifying file information about the adoptive family.

Searching can take time and persistence, but the following are some ways to begin:

- Directories:
 - Telephone directories - begin with last known place of residence.
 - Reverse directories (e.g. Henderson Directories) - these can be found at public libraries and provincial archives.
 - Online or web-based directories and search engines.
- Legal records - consult with Provincial Archives or Vital Statistics (marriage and death records) to determine which information, if any, you may be entitled to receive.

- Obituaries - search newspaper and online records for names, which may lead to names of surviving siblings, etc. Funeral homes may also have information including next of kin and survivors.
- Newspapers - may contain newsworthy items about the person being searched for.
- Local history books - usually found at public libraries, sometimes contain information and pictures on family members who lived in particular geographical areas.
- Census records and voters lists.
- Genealogical libraries or societies.
- Churches - local parishes record all births, deaths and marriages, and some make these records available online. Baptismal records provide additional information, such as name of godparents. Non-identifying background information from the file may provide information on religious affiliation, which provides a basis to search local parish records.

Part Three - Making Contact with Someone

When adult adoptees and birth parents discover a way to contact each other, their first thought might be, "how do I make contact?" Most people wanting contact with each other will do so out of curiosity or because they want to make a connection, and not because they feel animosity towards the other person. You have to consider the other person's feelings and the emotions that such contact may bring up. In determining how to use this information, there are a few things to consider:

- Was there a Veto or Contact Preference placed by the other person? If so, you have to think about the reasons the other person may have placed a Veto or Contact Preference and respect their decision. If a person stipulates on their Contact Preference a certain type of contact, then the request should be honored.
- If a birth mother placed a child for adoption and never told anyone, think about how she might feel if you located and contacted extended family or friends and started asking them questions. They won't know who you are, and have no way of verifying you or your identity. It also creates an awkward situation for the birth mother if she is unprepared to start answering questions from extended family and friends.
- Even though a birth mother may frequently think about her child, she may have unresolved feelings about her decision, or she may fear that her child is angry about her decision. Anticipate how the other person may feel, and think about what their reaction might be. The other person's initial reaction might not be what you expect, but their reaction may be based on being unprepared or surprised, or anger at the lack of control over timing. Think about how you would feel if the response was not favourable, or how you might respond back.

- If you called the other person, what would you say if someone else answered the phone? If you were taking a call, what would you say if someone else was in the room? If your first contact is a call, you may want to write down what you want to say beforehand, and when you call be sure you are speaking to the right person. Think about how you would introduce yourself, and ask the other person if it is a good time to talk, or if another time would be better. As well, consider the timing of the call. Major holidays such as Thanksgiving or Christmas can be filled with stress or anxiety, and people typically have a lot of company at that time. Those are not likely the best times to make first contact because they may not elicit the response you are hoping to get.
- A letter can sometimes be the best way to make first contact because it gives people the opportunity to absorb the information and think about how or if they want to respond. When composing your letter, write with consideration that someone who is not aware of the adoption is reading it. Consider, too, that sending a photo with your first letter may appear threatening to some. You may consider offering to send a photo with future contact if they wish. You might also want to give the other person an email address to respond to because this method of return contact can feel a bit more informal and more convenient.