

Children's Social Care

Adoption Contact Register

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**Required documents for birth parents
and other relatives**

adoption
with somerset county council



The purpose of the Adoption Contact Register is to put adopted people and their birth parents or other relatives in touch with each other where this is what they both want.

Birth parents and other relatives who have decided that they would prefer not to have contact with an adopted person need have no fear that the introduction of the register will put them at a greater risk of an unwanted approach. The Register cannot help an adopted person to learn of the whereabouts of a birth parent or other relative unless that person has chosen to be entered on the Register. The Registrar General can only pass on a name and address if and when that name and address are supplied to him.

The adoption contact register provides a safe and confidential way for birth parents and other relatives to assure an adopted person that contact would be welcome and to give a current address.

The register is in two parts, part one is a list of adopted people and part two is a list of birth parents and other relatives of an adopted person.

The Registrar General will send to an adopted person on the Register the name of any relatives who have also registered, together with the address supplied by the relative, and tell the relative that this has been done. No information about the adopted person can be given to a birth parent or other relative.

A registration fee is payable for entry in the Adoption Contact Register.

The Registrar General cannot pass letters or any information between adopted people and their relatives, beyond a name and address. However, some relatives may prefer initial contact to be limited to exchanges of letters or information. If this applies to you, you may ask the Registrar General to register you under the address of an organisation, which will act as an intermediary between you and the adopted person such as Somerset County Council.

Birth relatives and adopted adults may also register a wish for "no contact" with the Adoption Contact Register. Information may be obtained by phoning for a leaflet.

Please see the next page for frequently asked questions about the Adoption Contact Register.

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Is there a cost?

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What is the eligibility?

You must be an adopted person or the relative (relative includes birth parents of adopted person and anyone related to the adopted person by blood, half blood or marriage - this does not include relatives as a result of adoption) of an adopted person to have your name put on the register.

Process for adopted people

1. Contact the Registrar General's office for an application form.
2. Complete application form and return to Registrar General's office.
3. Once you have been added to the register, if a relative has already registered, the Registrar General's office will send you details.
4. You must let the Registrar General know if you change address.