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## What is the DYFS Adoption Registry?

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The Registry serves as a liaison between birth families and adoptees whose adoptions were processed by the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) and its predecessor agencies (Bureau of Children's Services, State Board of Child Welfare and State Board of Children's Guardians). Limited records also are available for Spaulding for Children Adoption Agency.

Registry services are not available to members of the adoption community whose adoptions were processed independently (through attorneys) or through private adoption agencies.

The Registry provides the following services:

- Registration (also available to birth parents)
- Non-identifying background information
- Limited search services
- Information and referral



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For more information contact:

**NJ Department of Children and Families  
Division of Youth and Family Services**

Adoption Registry  
PO Box 717  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0717  
609-888-7474

Or visit the web at:

**[www.njadopt.org](http://www.njadopt.org)**

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Department of Children and Families  
Division of Youth and Family Services  
[www.nj.gov/dcf](http://www.nj.gov/dcf)

# DYFS

## Adoption Registry



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A resource for  
adoptees and  
birth parents

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## Registration

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Adult adoptees, adoptive parents of minor adoptees and birth parents who would like to register must complete an application form that includes identifying information about themselves and the person(s) they wish to contact. Once an application is processed, the information is entered into the Registry. The Registry will not release this information but will notify the registered persons if the family member they are seeking applies to the Registry.

Registrants may also send cards or letters to be attached to their Registry application forms. This material remains in the Registry and can be forwarded when the intended family members contact the Registry.

Applications can be obtained from the Registry and should be updated when last names, current address or phone numbers change. Registrants may withdraw their application at any time.

## Non-identifying background information

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The Registry can provide non-identifying information to adult adoptees and adoptive parents of minor adoptees. Non-identifying information may include:

- Birth statistics
- Medical and social characteristics of birth family members
- Family health histories
- Certain facts and circumstances related to adoptive placement

The Registry can provide birth family members with information leading to the adoptive placement. Identifying or current information about the adoptee or the adoptive family cannot be released.

## Information and Referral

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Adoption Registry staff members are available to discuss search options. Information on support groups, agencies, reading materials and search techniques is also provided upon request.

## Limited search services

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At the request of adult adoptees and minor adoptees who have the written permission of their adoptive parents, Registry staff will conduct limited searches to locate birth relatives, based on information in the case record. In-depth private investigative services are not available.

Searches are not conducted on behalf of birth family members. However, they may send cards or letters to attach to their Registry form. This material is filed and forwarded in case that family member contacts the Registry.

Any birth family member located by a search must provide identification and written permission before Registry staff can honor requests to release identifying information or arrange contact with the adoptee.

Searching usually takes several months, depending on information available in the case record and the cooperation of agencies, individuals and other contacts.

There is no charge for services provided by the DYFS Adoption Registry.

