

Post Adoption Information Sheet No 4

Information for fathers applying for adoption records

Applying for information and birth certificates in NSW

In NSW a father who was not named on their child's birth certificate or the Memorandum of Adoption, cannot go through the usual channels to access adoption information about their child. Here are a couple of options available to consider.

1. Presumption of Paternity

In NSW, for a father to access his child's adoption information, he must be presumed to be the father. This may be recognised if the mother agrees to support the father and liaise with Births, Deaths and Marriages to have his name added to the certificate.

Another path is to apply to the Adoption Information Unit to be granted Presumption of Paternity. If a father declares himself as the father and the mother has previously signed a document supporting that claim, the applicant might be granted rights as the presumed father, and therefore the right to apply for the child's adoption records.

For further information about this process, click on the link below:

<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/birth-parents/access-for-birth-fathers>

2. Reunion and Information Register (RIR)

In NSW, the RIR (managed by the Adoption Information Unit) is a register for people who have been separated through adoption and wish to leave messages or be connected to another person concerning the same adoption, who has also added their details to the RIR. Under the Adoption Act 2000, any interested party can submit an application to be added to the RIR, including an unacknowledged father. If there is a "match" the Adoption Information Unit must inform each party and seek their instruction on how they would like to proceed.

For further information, click on the link below:

<https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/reunion-information-register>

Applying for information and birth certificates in QLD

1. Applying for Adoption Information

If a father applies for adoption information and he is named in the records as the adopted person's father, he is recognised as the birth father. The father will be provided with identifying information about the adoption - including an 'Authorisation' which permits the

father access to the adopted person’s original birth certificate from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM).

For further information, click on the link below: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/adoption/post-adoption-support-services/how-request-adoption-information#birth-parent>

In all cases where an application for adoption information is being made, the person is required to provide appropriate identification.

If the father is not named in records, his application is considered on a case by case basis. He may be asked to provide written information, and a Statutory Declaration confirming he is the father. If the information provided correlates with adoption records, he may receive identifying information. In such cases, attempts may be made by adoption services QLD to locate and contact the adopted person prior to information being released.

2. Applying for an Original Birth Certificate

When requesting a copy of the original birth certificate from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, all applicants must provide the ‘Authorisation’ document received as part of the information provided through Adoption Services QLD. As a father, when applying with this authority no separate process is required.

If a person’s father is not named on the original birth certificate and they wish for the name to be added, they are advised to contact the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages to discuss the request. Once all information has been provided to an applicant under the Adoption Act 2009, Adoption Services QLD play no further role in this process.

For more information contact us on the details below.

<p>Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC) Mail: Locked Bag 6002, Hurstville BC NSW 1481 Phone: 02 9504 6788 Email: PARC@benevolent.org.au Website: www.benevolent.org.au</p>	<p>Post Adoption Support Queensland (PASQ) Location: Ground Floor, 189 Coronation Dr, Milton QLD 4064 Phone: 07 3170 4600 Email: PASQ@benevolent.org.au Website: www.benevolent.org.au</p>
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