

DEAR ABBY / ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**Prayer for a First-Born**

DEAR ABBY: What are your views on adopted children one day being able to meet their birth parents?

Nineteen years ago my parents forced me to give up a baby girl for adoption because I was 16, unmarried and pregnant. I was very bitter at the time because I wanted to keep my daughter, but I realize that my parents did what they thought was best for me.

I am now a happily married mother of three, but my nightly prayer is to meet my first-born child. I have no desire to "surprise" her with a telephone call or an unexpected visit. I want to meet her only if she wants to meet me.

I heard that there is a national organization with whom birth parents and adopted children may register, and if all parties are agreeable to meeting, they may do so.

I am not a wealthy person, Abby, but I would gladly pay a fee. Thanks for any help you can give me.

MY NIGHTLY PRAYER

DEAR PRAYER: There is such an organization. It is: **International Soundex Reunion Registry, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, Nev. 89702.**

I have checked the organization out and have found it to be a legitimate, non-profit corporation that provides this charitable, humanitarian service gratis. Contributions are welcome in order to keep the operation going, but no fee is charged for services.

For a registration form, write to the above address, and please enclose a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope. Good luck and God bless.



DEAR ABBY: I am having a formal debutante party and need to know if it's OK to send a copy of the guest list to the kids I've invited. They want to know who's coming so they won't mention the party in front of any of the kids who aren't invited. (They don't want to hurt their feelings.)

SMALL TOWN, USA

DEAR SMALL TOWN: It would be easier to smuggle down past a rooster than to hush up a formal debutante party in a small town. Moreover, we all need to learn how to handle rejection, so it's unwise to try to protect our friends from such inevitable slights.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I are both 21 and want to get married, but we can't find a minister who will marry us because neither one of us belongs to a church.

I know we could go down to the city hall and get married by a judge or a justice of the peace, but we are both Christians and want a religious ceremony.

We can't afford to join a church just yet. Can you please help us?

THELMA AND FRANK

DEAR T. AND F.: Yes. Go to the Salvation Army and tell the people there what you've told me. Every commissioned officer of the Salvation Army is an ordained Christian minister, authorized to perform marriage ceremonies that will be legal and binding in every state in the United States. Good luck and God bless.