

## Guidelines for Getting More Information

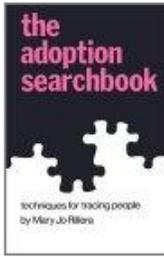
It is very common for registrants to not be able to fill out all areas of the ISRR registration form. Though ISRR is a mutual consent reunion registry and does not give search assistance of any kind, we highly recommend that you utilize various resources to acquire more information. Some are included here -- there are how-to books, search specialists, support groups, investigative firms, state registries, confidential intermediaries and online assistance available. Each state, and sometimes each county, or agency may have different ways of keeping records and responding to your requests. It is always advisable to contact people who specialize in your area of birth or adoption, so they can guide you and hopefully prevent you from closing any doors.

Each member of the adoption triad has the right to “Non-Identifying” information from the adoption agency or state department of social services. These will not usually give you full names, but will provide a great deal of other information about family members. Unfortunately, this information is not always available to extended family members such as siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins or spouses. It may also not be available to a birthfather who was not named at the time of relinquishment, or whose name is not in the documents or files. But, it is still worth asking. Adoptees, adoptive parents and birthparents always have the right to receive information from the files kept about them. This would include verification of the exact date and place of the adoptee’s birth, name of the hospital, name of the attorney or adoption agency handling the placement, and the location of the court of jurisdiction where the adoption was finalized.

Everyone can benefit by requesting “Non-Identifying Information”. Make your request in writing to the adoption agency or state department of social services where this birth, relinquishment and/or adoption took place. Current addresses where your records are kept can be found through a number of online listings. Try [www.childwelfare.gov/nad/State\\_Reunion\\_Registry.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/nad/State_Reunion_Registry.cfm) – then choose the state and one or all of the following: Private Adoption Agencies, Public Adoption Agencies, State Reunion Registries and Search Info, State Confidential Intermediary. Also, try Google or [www.genesearch.com/people/adoption\\_search.html](http://www.genesearch.com/people/adoption_search.html). You can sometimes ask the State Department of Vital Statistics who to contact to get information on your adoption. Following is a list of information to request:

<b>Adoptee or Adoptive Parents Request</b>	<b>Birth Family Members Request</b>
Adoptee's First.Middle Name at Birth	Adoptee's Full Name at Birth & First/Middle Names Given after Adoption
Attorney of Record and Address at Time of Adoption	Attorney of Record and Address at Time of Adoption
Court of Jurisdiction where adoption was finalized and Date	Court of Jurisdiction where Adoption was finalized and Date
First & Middle Names of Birthparents	First & Middle Names of Adoptive Parents
Ages, dates and place of births of Birthparents.	Ages, dates, places of birth of Adoptive Parents.
Information on other children known born to Birthparents	Information on other children known to be in this adoptive family.
Nationality and citizenship of Birthparents & other birthfamily	Nationality and citizenship of Adoptive Parents
Military service, or other public service of birthfamily members	Military service or other public service of adoptive family members
Occupations, professions of Birthparents	Occupations, professions of Adoptive Parents
Religion & Educational Levels of Birthparents & other birthfamily	Religion & Educational Levels of Adoptive Parents
Hobbies, special interests or other information on birthfamily	Hobbies, special interests or other information on adoptive family
Marital Status of birthmother and birthfather – Married to each other?	Marital history of adoptive parents including divorces
Medical history, diseases, deaths of birthfamily members	Medical history of adoptive parents
Medical history of adoptee prior to placement in adoptive home	Medical history of adoptee prior to adoption finalization
Was this adoptee ever in foster care and if so give descriptions.	Was this adoptee ever in foster care and if so give descriptions.
Any other background information of importance or interest	Any other background information of importance or interest
Physical description of each birth parent	Physical description of each adoptive parent
Has any contact been made with this agency by birthfamily members? Has there been any request for contact with adoptive family?	Has any contact been made with this agency by adoptive parents or adoptee? Has there been any request for contact with birthfamily?
If a request is made for contact will this agency facilitate?	If a request is made for contact will this agency facilitate?
Copies of any documents this agency can provide like original/amended certificate of birth, copies of files and home study, medical records.	Copies of any documents this agency can provide like original certificate of birth, surrender/relinquishment, copies of files and reports.

When you receive additional information, be sure to send an update into ISRR. This could make the difference in determining if we have a match for you or not. Also, remember to send in address and phone number changes so we can easily contact you. Update Forms are available at [www.isrr.net](http://www.isrr.net) or by calling the office.



***The Adoption Searchbook: Techniques for Tracing People* by MJ Rillera**

Paperback - 206 pages 3rd Edition Pure; ISBN: 0910143005 ; Price \$19.95.

**Book Description:** A how-to book to guide for adoptees, birthparents, adoptive parents and siblings to find family members, documents and information. Rillera worked with thousands of families since 1973, and her personal experiences as both adoptee and birthparent, gives her a keen understanding of the emotional and procedural aspects of search, contact and reunion. She was founder of Triadoption Library, a Guardian Trustee for the International Soundex Reunion Registry and served on many Boards including those of Concerned United Birthparents and American Adoption Congress. effects expertise in research methods and resources and a deep personal commitment to change. View table-of-contents, index and chapters on amazon.com "Look Inside".



***Search : A Handbook for Adoptees and Birthparents* by Jane Askin**

Paperback – 352 pages 3rd Edition, Oryx Press; ISBN: 1573561150 ; Price: \$29.95

**Book Description:** Now in its third edition, this widely acclaimed resource provides an honest and detailed guide for adoptees and their birthparents. It offers a wealth of ideas, advice, resources, and encouragement to anyone considering embarking on his or her own journey of discovery. Drawing from personal experience and from extensive research, the author presents creative ways to overcome obstacles and attack problems that occur during the search process.

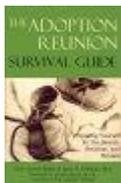


***Birthright: The Guide to Search and Reunion for Adoptees, Birthparents and Adoptive Parents* by Jean Strauss.**

Penguin, 1994. ISBN 0140512950. Price \$21.

A compassionate and comprehensive guide to locating family. Discusses the laws that make adoption records confidential setting the stage for the search strategies that follow.

***National Adoption Directory* by National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, 330 C Street SW, Washington DC 20447. (888) 251-0075. Listings in this book may also on the website [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov) – Formerly NAIC. Spiral Bound**  
**Book Description:** Contains listings of adoption agencies, registries, foster care resources, some search and support organizations, search/reunion specialists, websites and more. This spiral bound book was updated yearly.



***Adoption Reunion Survival Guide: Preparing Yourself for the Search, Reunion & Beyond* by Julie Jarrel Bailey, Lynn N. Giddens, M.A. List Price: \$25.95 Paperback - 150 pages; New Harbinger Publications; ISBN: 1572242280;**

**Book Description:** In the past, adopted individuals were uniformly discouraged from seeking out their birthparents. A system of legally sanctioned secrecy prevented adoptees from gaining access to their original birth records. Now, as a result of changing attitudes and legal reform, as many as 250,000 people a year seek reunions. This book helps birthparents and adoptees confront the difficult emotional and legal issues. The authors are both adoption specialists who draw upon real-life experiences to offer sound, compassionate advice concerning search, first meeting and maintaining a lasting relationship.

**List of books related to Search and Reunion**

- *How to Find Almost Anyone, Anywhere* by Norma Mott Tillman
- *Adoption Triangle: Sealed or Open Records* by Arthur Sorosky, Reuben Pannor, and Annette Baran
- *Lost and Found: The Adoption Experience* by Betty Jean Lifton
- *Adoption Encounter: Hurt, Transition, Healing* by MJ Rillera
- *The Reunion Book – 70+ Stories of Reunions & Relationships*
- *The Primal Wound* by Nance Newton Verrier.
- *Synchronicity and Reunion : The Genetic Connection of Adoptees and Birthparents* by LaVonne H. Stiffler
- *Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self* by David Brodzinsky, Marshall Schechter, Robin Marantz
- *Adoption Healing: A Path to Recovery* by Joe Soll
- *Healing the Hole in A Heart: One Birthmother's Journey into the Adoption Triangle* by Nancy Mac Isaac
- *Whose Child? : An Adoptee's Healing Journey from Relinquishment through Reunion* by Kasey Hamner
- *Adoption Reunions : A Book for Adoptees, Birth Parents and Adoptive Families* by Michelle McColm
- *The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrender Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe v Wade* by Ann Fessler
- *Adoption and Recovery: Solving the Mystery of Reunion* by Evelyn Burns Robinson
- *Shadow Mothers: Stories of Adoption and Reunion* by Linda Back McKay

These are only some of the books that may be of assistance to persons seeking family members. Be sure to visit our website [www.isrr.net](http://www.isrr.net) for more information and books with links directly for ordering from amazon.com.