

Post-Adoption Services in Saskatchewan

What is the Post-Adoption Registry?

The Saskatchewan Post-Adoption Registry maintains provincial adoption records that date back to 1922. The Registry provides services to those who are eligible, and if the adoption occurred in Saskatchewan.

As of January 1, 2017 the regulations regarding release of an adult adoptee's birth registration are changing. These changes affect:

- adult adoptees;
- birth parents of adoptees;
- adult children of a deceased adult adoptee; or
- adult children of a deceased birth parent whose child was placed for adoption.

Refer to the section that applies to you to learn about these changes.

Who is Eligible?

You may be eligible for services if you are:

- an adult adoptee (18+ years of age);
- an adoptive parent of an adoptee who is under the age of 18;
- a birth parent of an adoptee;
- the adult child of a deceased adult adoptee;
- the adult child of a deceased birth parent whose child was placed for adoption; or
- an extended family member of an adult adoptee or birth parent.

Note that if you were adopted by a stepparent or were adopted as an adult, the only sections that apply to you are 'Stepparent and Adult Adoptions' and 'If You Are First Nations'. The other sections do not apply to your type of adoption.

Applying for Services

You can find application forms online at www.saskatchewan.ca/adoptionrecords, or you can contact the Post-Adoption Registry at 1-800-667-7539. Select the application form and section of this guide that applies to you.

You must include a clear, current copy of one government-issued ID with your application.

There are no fees for services.

What Services does the Post-Adoption Registry Provide? Refer to the section that applies to you.

Adult Adoptees (Adoptees who have turned 18 years of age)

If you are an adult adoptee, under the new regulations you may submit the following to the Post-Adoption Registry:

- **Veto** – a veto prevents your birth name and other identifying information from being included on your birth registration before it is released. You can only place a veto if your adoption **occurred prior to January 1, 2017**.

A veto does not prevent someone from learning your identity through other means.

- **Contact Preference** – a contact preference **does not** prevent your birth name and other identifying information from being included on your birth registration before it is released to someone else. Instead, it allows you to state the type of contact you are willing to have with the birth parent or, if they are deceased, their adult children. This can include a preference for 'no contact'.

You are only able to submit either a veto or a contact preference.

If you are an adult adoptee, you may apply for:

- **Birth Registration** – new applications will be processed under the new regulations, which come into effect January 1, 2017. Birth registrations under the new regulations will not be released until after that date.

Birth registrations cannot be released until six months after adoptees turn 18 to allow the adoptee time to place a veto or contact preference.

Release of identifying information from the adult adoptee's birth registration is subject to any vetoes or contact preferences that may have been placed.

If you have already applied for your birth registration, you do not need to reapply. Your application will be processed under the new regulations.

- **Non-Identifying Background Information** – copies of file information may be provided. By law, third-party information, such as names of extended family members and exact locations, must be removed from any information you are eligible to receive.
- **Adoption Order** – typically, your adoption order is provided to you if you apply for your birth registration or your background information. If you need a copy for a specific purpose, you may request it from the Post-Adoption Registry.
- **Voluntary Contact** – you can request that your name be placed on a voluntary contact list in case extended family members also wish to have contact with you. If the Post-Adoption Registry makes a match, the name(s) and contact information of your extended family members will be provided to you, and you are able to decide how or when to make contact.

Birth Parent of an Adoptee

If you are a birth parent of an adoptee, under the new regulations you may submit the following to the Post-Adoption Registry:

- **Veto** – a veto prevents your name and other identifying information from being included on the adult adoptee’s birth registration before it is released. You can only place a veto if the adoption occurred prior to **January 1, 2017**.

A veto does not prevent someone from learning your identity through other means.

- **Contact Preference** – a contact preference **does not** prevent your name and other identifying information from being included on the adult adoptee’s birth registration before it is released. Instead, it allows you to state the type of contact you are willing to have with the adult adoptee or, if they are deceased, their adult children. This can include a preference for ‘no contact’.

You are only able to submit either a veto or a contact preference.

If you are a birth parent of an adult adoptee, you may apply for:

- **Birth Registration** – all new applications are being processed under the new regulations, which come into effect January 1, 2017. Birth registrations will not be released until after that date. The name(s) and other identifying information of the adoptive parent(s) are not included.

Birth registrations cannot be released until six months after the adoptee turns 18, which allows the adoptee time to place a veto or contact preference.

Release of identifying information from the adult adoptee’s birth registration is subject to any vetoes or contact preferences that may have been placed. If you are a birth parent and your name does not appear on the adult adoptee’s birth registration, you are not entitled to receive a copy of the birth registration. Instead, you may be eligible for a search for the adult adoptee. If you have applied for the adult adoptee’s birth registration, the Post-Adoption

Registry will advise you if a search for the adult adoptee is required instead.

If you already applied for the adult adoptee’s birth registration, you do not need to reapply. Your application will be processed under the new regulations.

- **Non-Identifying Background Information** – copies of file information may be provided. By law, third-party information must be removed from any information you are eligible to receive. As a birth parent, you are able to request certain documents for which you have provided information (e.g. a social history), or which you signed (e.g. a committal document).
- **Voluntary Contact** – you can request that your name be placed on a voluntary contact list in case extended family members wish to have contact with you. If the Post-Adoption Registry makes a match, the name(s) and contact information of the extended family members will be provided to you, and you are able to decide how or when to make contact.

Adult Children of Deceased Adult Adoptees or Deceased Birth Parents

Note that in order to apply, you must provide proof of death, which may include a copy of a death certificate, death notice, funeral card or obituary.

If you are:

- the adult child of a deceased adult adoptee; or
- the adult child of a deceased birth parent whose child was placed for adoption

you may apply on their behalf for:

- **Birth Registration** – all new applications are being processed under the new regulations, which come into effect January 1, 2017. Birth registrations will not be released until after that date. If you are the child of a deceased birth parent, the name(s) and other identifying information of the adoptive parent(s) is not included.

Birth registrations cannot be released until six months after the adoptee turns 18, which allows the adoptee time to place a veto or contact preference.

Release of information from the adult adoptee's birth registration is subject to any vetoes or contact preferences that may have been placed (for information on vetoes and contact preferences, see the sections 'Adult Adoptees' and 'Birth Parents').

If you already applied for the adult adoptee's birth registration, you do not need to reapply. Your application will be processed under the new regulations.

- **Non-Identifying Background Information** - certain information from the adoption file may be provided. By law, third-party information, such as names of extended family members and exact locations, must be removed from any information you are eligible to receive.

- **Voluntary Contact** – you can request that your name be placed, on behalf of the deceased adult adoptee or deceased birth parent, on a voluntary contact list in case extended family members wish to have contact. If the Post-Adoption Registry makes a match, the name(s) and contact information of the extended family members will be provided to you, and you are able to decide how or when to make contact.

Adoptive Parents

If you are an adoptive parent, you may apply for:

- **Adoption Order** – adoptive parents may receive a copy of the adoption order regardless the age of the adoptee.
- **Non-Identifying Background Information** – Adoptive parents typically receive background information on a child at the time of the adoption. Adoptive parents are able to request copies of replacement documents if the adoptee is still under the age of 18.

Extended Family

Extended family members include anyone related to either an adult adoptee or birth parent of an adult adoptee. If you are an extended family member, you may apply for:

- **Voluntary Contact** – as an extended family member, you may place your name on a list to have voluntary contact with the adult adoptee or birth parent. If the adult adoptee or birth parents also place their names on the contact list, your information will be provided to them. The adult adoptee or birth parents determine when to make contact. The Post-Adoption Registry does not search for anyone.

It is possible that a match may take a long time to occur, or that one may never occur.

To apply, you must know the adoptee's birth name, or the name of at least one birth parent whose name appears on the adult adoptee's birth registration.

Stepparent and Adult Adoptions

For **stepparent adoptions**, the following apply:

- If you are an **adult adoptee**, you are able to apply for your birth registration and the adoption order.
- If you are a **birth parent** of an adult adoptee, you are able to apply for the adult adoptee's birth registration as long as your name appears on the birth registration.
- If you are an **adoptive parent**, you are able to apply for the adoption order regardless the age of the adoptee.

For **adoptions of adults** (adoption of a person 18 years of age or more), the following apply:

- If you are an **adult adoptee**, you are able to apply for your birth registration and the adoption order.
- If you are an **adoptive parent**, you are able to apply for the adoption order regardless the age of the adoptee.

Adult Adoptees Who Were Born in Saskatchewan but Adopted Out of Province

If you were born in Saskatchewan but adopted out of province, you may be able to apply for your birth registration in Saskatchewan under the new regulations, which come into effect January 1, 2017. Birth registrations will not be released until after that date.

Release of your birth registration is subject to any vetoes or contact preferences that have been placed by the birth parent(s) whose names appear on your birth registration.

Health Information to Diagnose or Treat a Serious Medical Condition

If you are:

- an adult adoptee;
- the child of an adult adoptee; or
- the adoptive parent of an adoptee who is under the age of 18

and require current medical information to diagnose or treat a serious medical condition, you may apply to the Post-Adoption Registry. A search will be conducted for the birth family/ birth family members to determine if they are willing to provide current medical information.

Searches must be for exceptional medical purposes, and not to receive general family health history. The Post-Adoption Registry does not exchange identifying information as part of the search.

A qualified medical professional must complete the medical questionnaire attached to the application to support your request. You are responsible for any fees the medical professional may charge to complete the questionnaire.

Note, if you have medical information you feel the adoptee (or if they are a minor, their adoptive parent or guardian) or birth parent should know and would like to forward it to them, contact the Post-Adoption Registry.

Beneficiary of an Estate

If you are a lawyer or the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) and are representing an estate, you may contact the Post-Adoption Registry to request a search for an adoptee named as a beneficiary. The Post-Adoption Registry will provide the adoptee or his/her caregiver (if adoptee is a minor) with the contact information for the lawyer or the PGT.

If You Are First Nations

If you are adopted and feel you may be entitled to Treaty Status, you must first contact Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for information on how to apply for Treaty Status. Indigenous and Northern Affairs will process your application and make a direct request to the Post-Adoption Registry for your adoption file information.

If you require a copy of your adoption order to apply for Treaty Status, you may apply to the Post-Adoption Registry.