

ONTARIO SEARCHES

03/09

This information applies to adoptions finalized in the Province of Ontario only. A new bill, "Access to Adoption Records Act - 12" passed 3rd Reading in May 2008. This bill, which contains a Disclosure Veto provision, will come into effect fully in June 2009. Bill 183 was struck down by a Court Order shortly after coming into effect in September 2007. The Adoption Information Unit is renamed the Office of the Custodian of Adoption Information. Call: 416-327-4730 for detailed information about services.

At present the Ontario Government will only provide the following services:

- Accept applications for immediate searches when the health need is urgent. The ADR will decide whether the need is 'urgent'.
- Provide a Passive Registry for adoptees, birth parents, birth grandparents and siblings.

1. What is the ADR and how do I register with it? Who else can register?

This is a passive registry that is they will not search for anyone but if there is a match both parties will be given the other's identifying information. Forms to register are also available at: www.serviceontario.ca Or Call 416-325-8305. There is a great deal of information given so listen carefully.

2. I don't know which Children's Aid handled the adoption. How can I find out?

The Custodian of Adoption Information will be able to help you at 416-327-4730

3. What is an Adoption Order? How can I get one?

This document was originally given to all adoptive parents at the time of the adoption. It no longer carries a full birth name only a first name. It is available through the Office of the Adoption Custodian.

4. What is the new Disclosure Veto provision of Bill 12?

As of September 1, 2008 adoptees and birth parents may register a Disclosure Veto barring identifying information from being given to the other party. Check with the Adoption Custodian for more information.

5. What is a Contact Preference? I hear the new Bill has this choice.

A Contact preference allows you to choose the manner in which you may be contacted by the other party. If you an adoptee you may waive this choice and accept any contact by your birth parent.

6. Is non-identifying information and family history still available from the CAS involved?

This information should still be available from the agency that handled the adoption. Wait times vary.

7. My adoption was private what should I do?

Non-identifying information for adoptees and birth parents in a private adoption 'may' be available from the Custodian for Adoptions. Call 416-325- 8305

8. Is there a government number I can call for more information?

Yes, the number to call at the Registrar General's Office is: 416-325-8305 or 1-800-461-2156 . The wait time for answers on these lines may be very long. In addition there is a clear description of all services around Adoption Disclosure on the site: www.serviceontario.ca