

SPECIAL INFORMATION REGARDING ADOPTIONS COMPLETED IN QUEBEC

Quebec has no central registry of adoptions as do many of the other provinces in Canada. This means that you must know where the adoption took place. Each agency in each area has only the records of the adoptions that took place through that agency.

Once you know the town or area, write to the Social Service agency (Centre de Jeunesse) there and ask whether they have your file. If you are told they do not have your file, then a hunt for the right agency begins. For adoptees, the Certificate of Judgement shows the court and area where the adoption took place. The birth parent will know which social service agency she dealt with.

If you do not have a Certificate of Judgement or cannot remember the agency, you must then go from one Social Service Agency to another asking if they hold your file. Once found, the Social Service agency should be able to provide you with some medical and non-identifying background information. The waiting period for service varies widely but is often quite long.

Private adoptions may or may not have been registered with a Social Service agency in the area where the Judgement took place. You need to check with the local agency. Some adoptions were so private that little or no information remains. In this case you need to find the name of the doctor or lawyer who arranged the adoption and hope their files are still in existence. Sadly, in Quebec, the history of adoption is full of very questionable practices and falsified documents. The only course of action may be a legal challenge through the courts. We can advise further.

It is important to know that the Province of Quebec no longer charges a **“fee for search”** As of October 2007 none of the Centre de Jeunesse will charge fees. Under the law of Quebec, free search and reunion services were always a right, but did not happen because of horrendously long waiting lists. This is no longer so. Searches are done for a parent or the adoptee only, no sibling searches.

When you contact the agency, always ask for the length of waiting times.

Commonly requested agencies and groups:

Montreal - Batshaw Family Services, Adoption Disclosure Services,
5 Weredale, Westmount, Que. H3Z 1Y6. (514) 932-7161(English)

- C.S.S Montreal Metropolitain, 1001 de Maisonneuve Est,
Montreal, Quebec, H2L 4R5 (514) 896-3100 (French)

Quebec City - C.S.S. Quebec, 2915 Bourg. Royal,
Beauport, Quebec, G1G 3S2 (418) 529-7351

Hull - C.S.S Outaouais, 105 Boul Sacre Coeur C.P.1250,
Hull, Quebec, J8X 1C5 (819) 771-6631

Parent Finders - Montreal (514) 683-0204 Email to: pfmtl@primus.ca

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