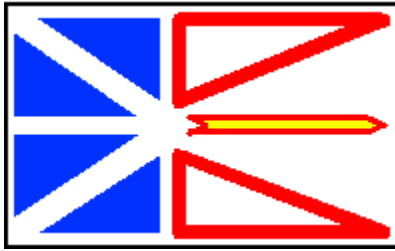


## Newfoundland & Labrador



On April 30, 2003, Newfoundland and Labrador became the second Canadian province to open adoption records to adult adoptees and their birth parents.

### **I am a Newfoundland adoptee/birth mother. I want to find my birth parents/adult child. What should I do?**

1. Apply for the original birth registration. Both adopted adults (aged 19+) and birth mothers of adoptees (aged 19+) are entitled to this document. It will provide the name of the adoptee's birth mother, and in some cases, his/her birth father. Many birth mothers find that receiving this original document is very healing.

Birth mothers may also apply for the amended birth registration of their adult child. The names of the adoptive parents will be blacked out.

For more information about the process, go to [www.gs.gov.nl.ca/gv/vs/adoption-records.stm](http://www.gs.gov.nl.ca/gv/vs/adoption-records.stm). Follow the links to find the application forms. You must pay a \$50.00 administration fee at the time of your application.

2. Apply for the Adoption Order. This is the document that made the adoption official.
3. Request non-identifying information from Newfoundland's Post-Adoption Services. They will send you a summary of information compiled from information they received at the time of the adoption. The summary will provide adoptees with information about their birth family. Birth mothers will learn more about their adult child's adoptive family.

Post-Adoption Services does not have a website. Call them at 709-752-4406 for more information. They estimate that you will receive your non-identifying information package about a year after you apply for it.

4. Place your name on the passive registry operated by Newfoundland's Post-Adoption Services. Once they have received your application, the social workers will check the registry to discover if a member of your birth family/adult child has also registered. If they find the name of a birth family member/adult child on the registry, they will notify

you both that there is a match and ask how you would like to proceed. If you both want to move forward, the social worker will help to facilitate your reunion.

If there is no match you may want to have Post-Adoption Services search on your behalf for your birth mother, father, sibling, grandparent/adult child.

Call Post-Adoption Services at 709-752-4406 for more information about the registry and searches. Please note that adoptees must have your original birth registration and birth mothers must have the amended birth registration before Post-Adoption Services will allow them to request a search. Searches take about five years to complete.

**I am a birth father. I want to meet my adult child. What can I do?**

You can register with the registry operated by Post-Adoption Services provided you are named in the adoption file, on the OBR, or if you signed the adoption consent form. You may also request that Post-Adoption Services do a search for your adult child.

**I am the child/grandchild of an adoptee. What can I do?**

If the adoptee is deceased you can apply for a search for the adoptee's birth parents or another birth relative.

**I am finding the reunion experience to be emotional. Who can I talk to?**

Post-Adoption Services maintains a list of qualified therapists whom you can choose to contact.

**Is there any way that I can be blocked from receiving identifying information about my birth parent/adult child? Is there any way I can be blocked from contacting my birth parent/adopted child?**

All adopted adults (18 and older) and birth parents have the option of filing a no-contact declaration. This document allows the government to release identifying information about the other party but forbids you to contact them. Before the government will give you any information you must sign a document stating that you will not contact and will have no one else contact your birth relative. If you disregard the no-contact declaration, you can be fined \$10,000.

Adoptees (18 and older) and birth parents can also choose file a disclosure veto. This document will block the government's ability to release any identifying information about the other party.

When submitting a veto, the applicant is given the opportunity to provide a written statement. In it s/he might provide medical information or explain why s/he feels s/he cannot give you information or meet you at this time.

It is important to recognize that very few people file vetoes. The majority of adoptees and birth parents welcome contact.

**To contact Post Adoption Services:**

Post Adoption Services  
Viking Building - 3rd Floor  
PO Box 13122  
St. John's NF A1B 4A4  
Telephone: (709) 752-4406  
Fax: (709) 752-4400

Website: <http://www.gs.gov.nl.ca/gv/vs/adoption-records.stm>