



**Family and Children's Services**

**ADOPTION UNIT**

**The Northern Territory  
Adoption Information  
Service**

*Information to assist in locating  
people separated by adoption*



**Northern Territory Government**  
Department of Health and Community Services

The *NT Adoption of Children Act* allows for the release of identifying information to adopted persons and birth parents.

If you were adopted or have relinquished a child for adoption in the NT you may, subject to certain conditions, obtain identifying information.

### ***Who can apply for identifying information?***

Adopted persons may obtain information that identifies their birth parents. If you are under 16 years of age you will need the consent of your adoptive parents.

Birth parents may obtain information that identifies their relinquished child after that child turns 18 years of age.

### ***How do I obtain identifying information?***

Prior to receiving any identifying information, you are required to attend an interview with an approved counsellor located at any of the Family and Children's Services offices listed:

#### **Darwin**

Family and Children's Services  
Adoption Unit  
Ground Floor, Casuarina Plaza  
Casuarina NT 0810

Telephone: (08) 8922 7077

#### **Alice Springs**

Family and Children's Services  
Eurilpa House, Todd Mall  
Alice Springs NT 0870

Telephone: (08) 8951 5170

#### **Katherine**

Family and Children's Services  
Government Centre  
First Street  
Katherine NT 0850

Telephone: (08) 8973 8600

#### **Nhulunbuy**

Family and Children's Services  
Arnhem House  
Endeavour Square  
Nhulunbuy NT 0880

Telephone: (08) 8987 0400

#### **Tennant Creek**

Family and Children's Services  
Leichhardt Street  
Tennant Creek NT 0860

Telephone: (08) 8962 4334

If you live outside the Territory, direct queries to the Darwin Office.

If You are an Aboriginal person you may choose to obtain your identifying information through either:

Karu

PO Box 828

Sanderson Nt 0813

Telephone (08) 8945 5237

Central Aust Stolen Generation  
& Families Corp

86 Hartley Street,  
Alice Springs NT 0871

Telephone: (08) 8953 3879

Fax: (08) 8953 6684

### ***Can I get my original birth certificate?***

Yes. When you get your identifying information you will be given an "Authorisation" to take to the Births, Deaths and Marriages section of the Register-General's office.



This “Authorisation” will allow Births, Deaths and marriages to give you:

- a certified copy of your original birth certificate if you are the adopted person
- a certified copy of the amended birth certificate of the adopted person, if you are the birth parent.

The “Authorisation” will also allow you to receive copies of any other certificates you may require eg. Marriage and death.

All Births, Deaths and Marriage certificates issued, incur a fee.

***What if you wish to object to (veto) your birth parent/adopted child receiving identifying information concerning you?***

If you are an adopted person or a birth parent you can notify the Adoption Unit that you do not wish to have any information identifying yourself given to any person.

You may object to (veto) the release of identifying information for a maximum period of three years which is then renewable for further periods of three years. You may withdraw your objection at any time. Veto forms are available by contacting any of the offices listed.

***Can anyone else get identifying information?***

Yes. If the birth parent is deceased, that birth parent’s mother or father, brother or sister or adult children may apply for identifying information about the adopted person.

If the adopted person is deceased the adoptive parents, brother or sister or adult children may apply for identifying information about the birth parent/s.

*Department of Health and Community Services does not charge any fees for the provision of information concerning adoption.*