

New York State

Adoption Information Registry

**2012 NAPHSIS/NCHS Joint
Meeting
June 3 through June 7, 2012**



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Our Journey from Good to Great
Minneapolis, MN June 3rd – June 7th, 2012**



New York State

Adoption Information Registry

- What does the Registry do?
 - Helps adoptees obtain non-identifying and medical information
 - Matches registered adoptees, birth parents & biological siblings
 - Files birth parent medical information updates



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New York State Adoption Information Registry

- Who can register?
 - Adoptees
 - 18 years of age or older
 - born in NYS
 - adopted in NY
 - Birth Parents
 - if child meets the above
 - Biological Siblings



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- What is Non-identifying Information
 - Defined by domestic relations law.
 - Non-identifying information may include:
 - Name of adoption agency
 - age
 - heritage- nationality, ethnic background, race
 - education
 - height, weight, color of skin, eyes, hair
 - religion



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Additional Non-identifying Information

- talents, hobbies, interests
- occupations
- health histories
- facts & circumstances
- number, age and gender of siblings
- medical updates submitted by birth parents



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- What is **not** Non-identifying Information
 - First names or initials
 - Date of birth – year, month, or day information
 - Astrological sign
 - Revealing occupation
 - Anything else that in good judgment may lead to identifying information



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- Identifying Information
 - Includes current names and addresses
 - Only released after verification of consent & match
 - Requires registration of either birth parent
 - Only the adoption registry can verify match and authorize the release of identifying data



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AIR Process

- review registration and consent forms
- verify applicant eligibility (age, born in NYS, adopted in NYS)
- enters information into AIR database
- check for duplicates and potential matches
- retrieves sealed birth files (NYS or NYC) including:
 - name of court
 - date of adoption
 - birth certificate information



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AIR Process continued....

- request information from appropriate court to learn
 - names of birth parents
 - name of agency
 - non-id information, if no agency involved
- request Non-id information information from adoption agency
- Processing Time
 - Average 8 months
 - Depends on court, agency NYC backlogs, lost files
 - Follow-up requests sent as needed about every 3 months



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- Information Release
 - Adoption agency is default
 - Registry sends name of agency and non-id from sealed birth information to adoptee
 - Registry advises agency to send additional non-id in agency files directly to adoptee



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- Can adoption agencies accept and process AIR registration requests directly from adoptees, birth parents & siblings?
 - Yes, if the agency registers with the AIR as a Mutual Consent Volunteer Adoption Registry (MCVAR)
 - Registration forms included in MCVAR packet



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- Security of confidential identifying information
 - Required by law
 - Do not discuss identifying information on phone
 - Doesn't matter who caller says they are
 - Doesn't matter what the reason is
 - Redaction of all identifying information



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- The question sometimes arises about what, if anything, that can be done if there is a medical emergency.



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■ Birth Parent Consent Program

As of November 3, 2008 the services of the Adoption Information Registry were expanded so that birth parents can register whether they give consent or do not give consent for the release of their contact information to the adoptee. If the parents have registered their consent, the contact information will be released to the adoptee only after he or she reaches at least eighteen years of age and registers with the Adoption Information Registry.



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■ Fee Schedule

All fees waived as of April 2000



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■ Statistics – May 21, 2012

- 28,131 adoptees registered
- 6,919 birth parents registered
- 1,427 biological siblings

- 1,413 adoptee/birth parent matches
- 212 adoptee with biological sibling raised by birth parent matches
- 432 adoptee with adoptee matches

- 5% adoptees who register are matched with a registered birth parent
- 20% biological parents who register are matched with their registered biological child



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- More Information

- DOH web page at

- http://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/adoption.htm



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New Proposed Legislation



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Questions?



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