# ADOPTION SEARCH AND REUNION

NI – "non-identifying" information (see explanation)

| | Information released to adult adoptee | | | | Court order required to be filed by adult adoptee | | | Information released to birth family members | | | Information released to adoptive parents | | Registration required with state or mutual consent registries | | Other requirements for NI information to be released | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| State | direct access of NI information to adult adoptee | legal right to know one's own birth info | request of adult adoptee filed unless birth parent filed affidavit denying release of confidential records | access to original birth certificate at request of adult adoptee | court order required for adult adoptee to obtain original birth certificate | court order required once all parties have been considered | NI info released unless non-consent filed | NI info released only to birth parents | NI info could also be released to adult birth siblings | affidavit system used by state – birth family members file consent to release NI info or register refusal | NI info released only to adoptive parents | adoptive parents can request state registry contact birth parents, if medically necessary | registration with state reunion registry required | registration with mutual consent registry required | mutual consent before NI provided | court petition require for release | requires counseling regarding possible consequences of search | court order for release of NI info required | uses confidential intermediaries | Putative father registries |
| Alabama | * | | | * | | | | * | | * | | * | | | | | | | * | #^ |
| Alaska | | * | | * | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | |
| Am. Samoa | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | |
| Arizona | | | | | * | | | * | * | | | | | * | * | | | | | #^ |
| Arkansas | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | * | * | | * | | | |
| California | | | | | * | | | | | * | * | | | | * | | | | | |
| Colorado | | | | | * | | | * | * | | | | | * | * | | | | * | |
| Connecticut | | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | * | | ** | * | | |
| DC | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Delaware | * | ^^ | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Florida | | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | |
| Georgia | | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Guam | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | * | | |
| Hawaii | | * | | | * | | *% | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Idaho | | * | | | | * | | | | | * | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Illinois | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | * | | | | * | #^ |
| Indiana | | * | | | | | *% | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Iowa | | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | |
| Kansas | | * | | * | * | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | #^ |
| Kentucky | | | | | * | | | | | * | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Louisiana | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Maine | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | |
| Maryland | | | | | | | *% | * | | | | * | | | * | | | | | |
| Massachusetts | | | | | * | | | * | | * | | | | | | | | | | #^ |
| Michigan ++ | | | | | | | | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | * | |
| Minnesota ++ | | ^^ | * | | | | | | | * | | * | | | * | | | | | #^ |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mississippi | | | | | | * | | * | * | * | | * | | | | | * | | | |
| Missouri ++ | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Montana | | ^^ | | | | | | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | * | |
| Nebraska | | | * | | | | *% | | | * | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nevada | | | | | * | | | | | | * | | | | * | | | | | |
| N Hampshire | * | * | | * | * | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | | |
| New Jersey | | | | | * | | | | | * | * | | | | | | | * | | |
| New Mexico | | | | | * | | | * | * | * | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| New York | | | | | * | | | * | * | | | | * | | * | | | | | #^ |
| North Carolina | | | | | * | | | * | * | | | | | | | | | | * | |
| N. Dakota | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | * | |
| Ohio ++ | | ^^ | | | | | *% | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Oklahoma | | ^^ | | | | | | * | * | | | | * | | * | | | | * | #^ |
| Oregon | * | | | * | | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Pennsylvania | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | | | * | | | | |
| Puerto Rico | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rhode Island | | | * | | | | | * | * | | | | * | | * | | | | | |
| South Carolina | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | * | | * | | | |
| South Dakota | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | #^ |
| Tennessee | * | * | * | * | | | | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Texas ++ | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | * | | * | | | #^ |
| Utah | | | * | | | | | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Vermont | | | * | | | | *% | * | * | | | | | | * | | | | | #^ |
| Virginia | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | | | * | |
| Virgin Islands | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | * | | | * | | |
| Washington | | ^^ | ^^ | | | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | * | |
| West Virginia | | | | | * | | | * | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wisconsin | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | | | | | | | | #^ |
| Wyoming | | | | | * | | | | | | | * | | | * | | | | * | #^ |

* state law/regulation indicated
** would prohibit release of NI info if deemed seriously disruptive to parties
++ legislation has been introduced to provide original birth certificate to adult adoptee, but not yet law (courtesy of The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption nstitute)
#^ visit www.adoptioninstitute.org/policy/polputative.html to read state statute on the putative father registry

^^ **list below indicates the legal right to know information released for adoptions finalized**

Delaware (on or after 10/1/97)
Minnesota (on or after 8/1/97)
Montana (on or after 10/1/97)
Ohio (on or after 1996)
Oklahoma (on or after 11/1/97 – when no other birth siblings under age 18 who have been adopted)
Washington (on or after 10/1/93)

***% list below indicates NI information released for adoptions finalized**

Hawaii (after 12/31/93)
Illinois (after 1/1/00)
Indiana (after 12/31/93)
Maryland (after 1/1/00)
Michigan (before 5/28/48 or after 9/12/80)
Minnesota (after 8/1/97)
Nebraska (after 7/20/02)
Ohio (after 1996)

Vermont (after 7/1/1986)