

# Who May Register?

## Adopted Persons

Adopted persons 18 years of age or older may register if:

- they were born in Maine, or
- their adoption was initiated, processed, or finalized in Maine, or
- they were freed for adoption but not subsequently adopted.

Adopted persons 18 years of age or older may register even if the adoption was subsequently annulled or their adoptive parents no longer have parental rights.

## Biological Parents

Biological or birth parent(s) whose child was born or adopted in Maine, or who surrendered parental rights or had parental rights terminated in Maine, may register.

## Adoptive Parents

The adoptive parent(s) of an adopted child who is less than 18 years old may register for the child if:

- the child was born in Maine, or
- the adoption was initiated, processed, or finalized in Maine.

The adoptive parent(s) may register on behalf of an adopted person who has been determined by a court to be incapacitated.

The adoptive parent(s) of an adopted person who has died may also register.

## Legal Guardians

The legal guardian may register on behalf of a person:

- whose adoption was annulled, or
- whose adoptive parents no longer have custody, or
- who has been determined by a court to be incapacitated, or
- who was freed for adoption but not subsequently adopted.

## Other Relatives

- Full or half-siblings of an adopted person, or a person freed for adoption, may register if they are 18 years of age or older.
- The legal guardian of a person under 18 who is a full or half-sibling of an adopted person or a person freed for adoption may register.
- Relatives of the biological parent of an adopted person, if that biological parent is deceased: mother, father, grandparent, full sibling, half-sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin.

# How Does It Work?

The State Registrar maintains original birth certificates for adoptees who were born in Maine. Records are also maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to adoptions which were initiated, processed, or finalized in Maine. Both public and confidential departmental files may be reviewed by the Registry to verify identification and assure a correct match between a birth parent and an adopted person.

Authority for the Maine Adoption Reunion Registry is based on Title 22, M.R.S.A., Section 2706-A. The Registry is administered by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.

## Additional Information

The Registry will require a certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate, as well as additional information as necessary to establish the applicant's relationship with the person with whom contact is desired and to assist in accurate identification of registered individuals. All supporting documents will be returned after registration is complete.

## Restrictions

The Maine Adoption Reunion Registry cannot release copies of original birth records or adoption records, except by a court order.

## Change of Mind

Applicants may withdraw their names from the Registry at any time by writing to the Maine CDC vital records office.

## Change of Address

Applicants should notify the Registry of changes in address, name or other information in order for the Registry to be able to reach them if a corresponding application is filed.

# How to Apply?

## Forms

Registration forms are available from:

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
(Maine CDC)  
Vital Records Office  
244 Water Street  
11 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
(207) 287-3771  
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

## Fee

A registration fee of \$50.00 must accompany the completed registration form.

## Other Documents

Applicants must present the following documents with the registration form:

- Applicant's birth certificate
- Birth certificate of adopted person, if application is made by someone else on behalf of an adopted person
- Documentation of applicant's relationship to adopted person
- Death certificate of deceased biological parent, if applicant is a relative of that person

## Registration

Completed applications, supporting documents, and check made payable to Treasurer - State of Maine, should be mailed to the Maine CDC vital records office at the address above. Acknowledgement of registration with the Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry will be returned together with all documents submitted.

## What Is It?

The Maine Adoption Reunion Registry was formed in answer to the growing need of persons separated by adoption for mutually voluntary contact.

The Registry contains current identifying information supplied voluntarily by adopted persons, their biological parents, full and half-siblings, and certain other relatives.

Adopted persons whose adoptions were annulled, or whose adoptive parents no longer have parental rights, may enroll in the Registry.

Persons who were freed for adoption but never subsequently adopted may register.

In the case of adopted persons under the age of 18, or those who have been determined by a court to be incapacitated, their adoptive parents, legal custodians or guardians may register on their behalf.

If a biological parent has died, his or her immediate relatives may enroll in the Registry.

When a request for contact has been received from both a biological (birth) parent or other relative, or person acting on his or her behalf, **and** from that parent's child-adopted or freed for adoption, or person acting on the child's behalf, each party will be notified of the name and address of the other party.

The Maine Adoption Reunion Registry is a **PASSIVE** registry: The persons whose names are included have voluntarily requested that their names and addresses be made available to the party or parties they wish to contact.

Information will not be provided unless both parties have registered.

## Remember

If you have not registered, your name will not be available to the other parties who may have registered. If you desire a reunion, you must register or your identity will remain confidential.

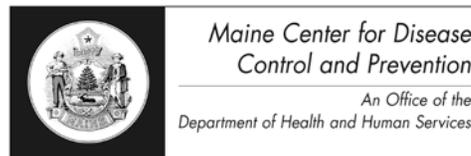
## Further Information

Please be advised that private, nationwide registries and local support groups exist; you may wish to take advantage of such services. Information about sources of counseling and other registries is available from Maine CDC vital records office.

### DHHS Non-Discrimination Notice

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, age, or national origin, in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities, or its hiring or employment practices. This notice is provided as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Maine Human Rights Act and Executive Order Regarding State of Maine Contracts for Services. Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the DHHS ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinators, 11 State House Station – 221 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-4289 (V), or 287-3488 (V), TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay). Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in program and services of DHHS are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance/EEO Coordinators. This notice is available in alternate formats, upon request.

To order additional copies of this publication or if you have questions about the content, please call: Maine CDC, Data, Research, and Vital Statistics at 207-287-5500. "TTY users call Maine relay 711".



## Your Life Doesn't Have To Be A Closed Book!

*You can open it by registering for the:*

# ***THE MAINE ADOPTION REUNION REGISTRY***



*A strictly confidential service of  
The Maine Department of Health  
and Human Services*