# The Adoption Contact Register

The Adoption Contact Register was established to assist adopted people contact birth relatives or allow birth relatives contact adopted adults. The register allows you to check if a relative has tried to contact you, or you can register your wish to contact a relative. The General Registers Office (GRO) administers the register.

Leaflet ACR 5 (NI) will give more detail in this regard.

General Register Office,

Oxford House

49-55 Chicester Street

**Belfast** 

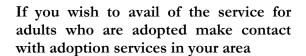
BT14HL

Tel: 028 9025 0000

#### **Comments and Suggestions**

If you have any comments or suggestions in relation to the Post Adoption Service we would be delighted to hear from you. Make contact with the Adoption Service in your area to discuss these further.

### Who to contact



Adoption Unit

Rossdowney House

Glendermott Rd

Londonderry BT47 6BG

Tel: 028 71 314235

Family Placement Team

Community Services Dept.,

Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital

Omagh

BT79 0NS

Tel: 028 82835114



### Post Adoption Service Adopted Adults

Relevant image

### Were you adopted?

Since 1987 adults over 18 years old are entitled to find out information about their birth. Within the Post Adoption Service we can offer you, as an adopted adult advice and guidance in this process. The service may include:

- The required counselling interview prior to disclosure of birth information
- An opportunity to discuss your feelings about adoption and the implications for you and your family.
- Where possible support in accessing information from adoption agency files and court records.
- The social worker working with you can act as an intermediary in contacting birth relatives, arranging reunions where appropriate
- Ongoing support and counselling at all stages of the process
- We also have a duty of care toward your birth relatives who you may wish to contact. We will also engage with

your relatives to help them come to understand the process and their feelings about being traced and the impact on them and others important to them.

Relevant image	

## How might this process affect you?

People who have been adopted enter this process for many reasons. Some want to find out their birth name while others wish to access medical information, and some want to find birth relatives. The post adoption service will assist you to whatever level you want.

Many adults who have come to this agency to find birth information found that they were entering a very emotional process. Our identity is a very important part of who we are. This may well be the first opportunity adopted people have to find out their birth name. Our service aims to emotionally support adopted adults through this process.

If you wish to search for your birth relatives the social worker can act as an intermediary on your behalf. As an adoption agency we have a duty of care to birth relatives as well as adopted people, they too need help and support to come to terms with a son or daughter who they placed for adoption trying to find them. For some it is a very welcome development but for others it may mean the emergence of feelings of loss or the re-awakening of the trauma associated with the relinquishment of the child in the first place.