



Post Adoption Support – England

After Adoption

Adoption is a life-changing experience for everyone involved, whether by agreement or against the wishes of the parents or kinship carer, it is an extremely distressing and difficult time. It is specifically difficult for the relatives of a child, who often have no legal rights and therefore do not have a say in the adoption plans. We hope this advice sheet will provide some practical advice and support to help you through this difficult process.

Support for relatives of children placed for adoption or adopted

Your local authority has a duty to make an offer to assess the support needs of anyone who is affected by an adoption placement. This applies to the child, the adopters, the birth parents and close relatives and siblings who have had or may have a role in the child's life. However, more often support for relatives is provided by a specialist organisation independent of the local authority.

A list of the agencies can be found on the [Coram BAFF](#) website. The agencies include voluntary organisations who provide specialist adoption support to birth families and voluntary adoption agencies who will provide an independent service when a child has been taken into foster care and placed for adoption by the local authority.

Frequently asked questions following adoption

1. Are relatives entitled to know which adoption agency is involved in the adoption?

This factsheet is for information only and should not be taken as a full statement of the law. Last updated August 2021.

If you would like further information regarding which adoption agency dealt with any adoption connected to your family adoption or how to gain access to adoption records, please go to <http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk/Channels/>.

2. Can a relative stay in contact with an adopted child?

There is no legal requirement for an adoptive family to maintain contact with the child's birth family. However, contact arrangements will be discussed prior to the child's adoption and a voluntary agreement between the two families will normally be arranged. Sometimes the details of the contact arrangements may be included in the court order.

For more information go to <https://www.adoptionuk.org/managing-contact-with-birth-family>

3. Will contact be by post or telephone only, or can face to face contact be maintained following adoption?

Contact can be maintained face to face or over the telephone, normally known as 'direct contact,' or contact can be by letter only, known as 'indirect contact'. The kind of contact provided will be decided by all parties involved and the child's best interest will be paramount in the final decision.

4. How to find someone who was adopted?

If you are a birth relative, you can add yourself to the register to try to find an adopted person by filling in [form CR part 2](#).

Read [guidance notes](#) on how to complete the form. You will only be able to find people who have also added themselves to it. You need to be 18 or over.

The fee is £30 - instructions on how to pay are on [form CR part 2](#). You can also use this form if you are an adopted person looking for other adopted siblings.

You can also apply to make contact with an adopted person through an approved [intermediary agency](#).

5. How to find birth relatives if you were adopted?

If you are 18 or over, you can add yourself to the Adoption Contact Register. Your adoption or birth will need to have been registered with the General Register Office.

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You need to fill in [form CR part 1](#) to add yourself to the register. Read [guidance notes](#) on how to complete the form.

You need:

- your original birth name
- your date of birth
- the full name(s) of your birth mother (and birth father if known)

The fee is £15 - instructions on how to pay are on [form CR part 1](#).

For adoptions outside England or Wales you need to contact the General Register Office where you were adopted.

For further information and support please contact our Kinship Advice Service:

Visit us at - <https://kinship.org.uk/for-kinship-carers/advice-and-support/>

Email us at - advice@kinship.org.uk

Call our advice line - [0300 123 7015](tel:03001237015)