

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE ADOPTEE APPLICATION FOR DISCLOSURE

Attached is an Adoptee Application for Disclosure, which is used to initiate a search for your birth family member(s). Please complete the Application, have it notarized, and return it to the Permanency Unit, 801 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2901.

Identifying information from closed adoption records cannot be released to you without good cause. Agreement from the birth family member(s) to the sharing of identifying information is considered good cause. Therefore, the purpose of the search is to determine whether the birth family member(s) on whom you wish to have information are willing to give consent to have information that would identify them released to you.

Once your Adoptee Application for Disclosure has been completed and submitted to the Permanency Unit, the agency that was initially involved in your adoption will be designated to conduct the search. The name and telephone number of that agency is listed below. The searching agency may charge a fee for attempting to locate the birth member(s) on whom you desire information. If the agency charges a fee, the fee must be paid to that agency before your application for disclosure is granted or denied. If you have questions about the fee, please contact the agency listed below before submitting your application to this office, as submission of the application authorizes the search.

The searching agency has ninety (90) days to conduct the search. Additional time can be granted to complete the search when there is good cause. Once the search is complete, the searching agency will send a report to the Permanency Unit with a recommendation about whether to grant or deny the Adoptee Application for Disclosure. Applications are usually denied when birth family members are not located, do not give consent, or are deceased.

If your application is denied, or if the Permanency Unit fails to designate an agency to conduct the search within thirty days of receipt of the Adoptee Application for Disclosure, you have the right to petition the court for disclosure. If you are a Virginia resident, you may petition the Circuit Court in the county or city where you reside. If you live out of state, you must petition the Richmond City Circuit Court.

Searching Agency: _____

Telephone Number: (Area Code) _____ (Number) _____

Adoptee Application for Disclosure

The applicant hereby applies to the Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services for Disclosure of Information PURSUANT TO THE VIRGINIA CODE SECTIONS 63.2-1246 AND 63.2-1247. *Provide additional pertinent information on a separate page, if necessary.*

You may access additional information on your rights as an adoptee at:
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dfs/ap/intro_page/guidance_procedures/records.pdf

(Type or Print Clearly)

Virginia Adoption Case Number _____

Applicant's Current Name _____

Applicant's Adoptive Name _____

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1. I am over the age of eighteen having been born on _____ (complete date of birth).
 2. My adoptive mother's name is _____
 3. My adoptive father's name is _____
 4. I wish to obtain non-identifying information [indicate by "X"]
_____ Placement _____ Adoptive/Birth Family
 5. I wish to obtain [indicate by "X's"] the identity of:
_____ Birth Mother _____ Birth Father _____ Adult Birth Sibling(s)

Residence Full Address	Mailing Address (if different from residence address)
Telephone Number:	Cell Number:
E-mail:	E-mail:

Signature of Applicant: _____
(Must be signed in front of a Notary Public)

STATE OF _____ County or City of _____ Subscribed this date and sworn to before me on the _____ day of _____ 20____.

Notary Public: _____

My Commission Expires: _____