

Birth Records *Adoptions*



Alberta's Vital Statistics Answers
Your Frequently Asked Questions



Alberta
GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Frequently Asked Questions

Birth Records

What happens to a child's birth record in Vital Statistics when the child is adopted?

- When a child is born in Alberta, the birth (biological) mother completes a Registration of Birth showing herself as the mother of her child.
- When the child is adopted, a new Registration of Birth is completed for the child listing the adoptive parents as the parents of the child.
- The original Registration of Birth that was completed by the birth mother is removed from the general records and sealed in a vault.
- The new Registration of Birth completed by the adoptive parents is placed in the general records and is used to create official birth documents.

As an adopted child, can I obtain my original Alberta Registration of Birth from Vital Statistics?

Alberta Vital Statistics does not have the authority to release an original birth registration where there has been an adoption without an order from the Court of Queen's Bench.

Can I order from Vital Statistics the birth records of persons who were family members before the adoption went through?

Adoption information is highly confidential. The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIP) does not affect the continued confidentiality of records under the *Vital Statistics Act*. Adoption orders and birth records in the Vital Statistics office containing original biological information are sealed records.

- Adopted persons are not permitted to apply for any Vital Statistics records of their biological parents.
- Adopted persons are not permitted to apply for any Vital Statistics records of any one who was a relative before the adoption.
- Biological parents are not permitted to apply for their natural child's birth record once the child has been placed for adoption.
- Persons who have been adopted, and those who have placed their child for adoption, are not considered related to each other for Vital Statistics' eligibility purposes.



How can I find out anything about my original birth information?

If you were **adopted in Alberta**, the best place to begin your search is with the Alberta Post Adoption Registry within the department of Alberta Children's Services. The Post Adoption Registry provides non-identifying background information and facilitates a reunion when two or more parties have voluntarily registered for contact. There is no charge for their service.

- Post Adoption Registry
Sterling Place
6th Floor
9940 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2N2
- Edmonton (780) 427-6387
Alberta rite-line (toll free Alberta only)
310-0000 then dial (780) 427-6387
- Alberta Children's Services Web site address:
www.child.gov.ab.ca
- E-mail: postadoption.registry@gov.ab.ca

If you were **adopted outside Alberta**, contact the province/territory where the adoption took place for more information. That province/territory is the adoption record holder. Each has their own laws about the release of adoption information.

