



Adoption Support Services

Information for birth relatives

How can we help?

The Adoption Support team offers a service to birth relatives enquiring about family members over 18, who have been adopted.

We can help you if:

- You live in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and are a birth relative of an adopted person who is over the age of 18.
- You are enquiring about a family member whose adoption was arranged by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

We aim to provide a sympathetic and open approach to birth relatives making enquiries and provide them with a positive, supportive service. The welfare, safety, needs and wishes of adopted adults and others concerned will be our first consideration.

What is an intermediary service?

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames offers an intermediary service for birth relatives. This means that our adoption support social workers will assist birth relatives in accessing the information they need to trace a relative and will help to arrange contact between them. The intermediary services we offer are designed to safeguard the interests of everyone involved.

How do I make an enquiry?

You should contact the Adoption Support team in writing, using the form at the back of this leaflet. Please try to give us as much information as possible and include documentation that confirms your relationship with the adopted adult, for example a birth certificate or marriage certificate.

The adopted person must be at least 18 before we will make any enquiries. If the adopted person is between 18 and 21, we may contact the adoptive parents.

We expect all birth relatives to attend a counselling interview with a social worker in the Adoption Support team. They will discuss with you some of the implications of making contact with your birth relative and the many complex feelings that can be aroused for you and your relative.

The counsellor will also be able to help you look at your expectations in contacting the adopted person and think about what you hope to gain from the contact.

If you do not live in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames, you can arrange to see a counsellor in your local Adoption Support agency.



What services do we offer?

If you are a London Borough of Richmond upon Thames resident, we can provide these services:

- If you know the details of the agency that organised the adoption of your birth relative, we will contact that agency on your behalf.
- If you know the name of the court where the adoption order was made, we can contact them to find out which adoption agency arranged the adoption. The court may make a charge for this service.
- If you do not have this information, we can approach the Registrar General to get hold of these details for you. They can tell us:
 - your birth relative's adoptive name (this can only be shared with you if we have the adopted person's consent)
 - the court where the adoption order was made
 - details from the Adoption Contact Register.



What is the Adoption Contact Register?

The Adoption Contact Register was set up in 1991 and is run by the General Register Office (GRO). It helps to put adopted adults and their birth relatives in touch with each other, if that is what they both wish.

Part 1 of the register is for adopted adults

Adopted adults can register their wish for contact with a birth relative or record a wish for no contact, or contact only in specific circumstances, such as to find out their medical history.

Part 2 of the register is for birth relatives

Birth relatives can record their wish for contact or no contact here.

If an adopted adult and a birth relative both register their wish for contact then an automatic link is made. The Registrar General will send the birth relative's name and address to the adopted person, with details of the relationship. The birth relative will be told that their details have been sent but it is up to the adopted person to decide if they want to make contact.

We advise people to put their details on the Adoption Contact Register. You need to provide documentation of your relationship with the adopted adult and will be charged a fee, currently £30.

If the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames was the agency that arranged your relative's adoption, we can provide these services:

- We will hold the adoption records with the last known address of the adoptive parents and we will check the records to see if there is a veto in place.
- We can arrange for an adoption support counsellor in the area that you are living to receive the records on your behalf. You may have already contacted the adoption support team in your area in order to access the records held by Richmond Council.

Contacting the adopted adult

We are not able to offer a tracing service, but will attempt to contact the adopted person on your behalf. This may be through the last known address of their adoptive parents. If we are not able to do so, we will refer you to organisations that may be able to help you further your search. These organisations will charge a fee for their service.

Some adopted adults have an immediate interest in pursuing contact, while others do not feel ready and may need time to consider how they wish to respond. Some are clear from the start that they do not want to have any form of contact. We always respect the views of the adopted person and it is up to them whether they wish to accept the birth relative's approach for contact.

We will place details of your enquiry on the adopted person's file and on our agency contact register. These details will then be available if the adopted person makes contact with us in the future.

Contact arrangements

If the adopted adult wishes to consider contact, they will have the opportunity to talk with an adoption support counsellor about the type of contact they would like to have. Letters and photographs are often exchanged to allow the parties to gain more information about one another before they meet. To maintain confidentiality, the adoption counsellor will act as an intermediary until people feel ready to disclose their personal details to each other.



Other support services we can provide:

Local individual counselling for birth relatives.

This service is provided by an organisation called Jigsaw4U that is independent from social services. The counsellors are specially trained to support birth parents.

Local support group for birth parents.

The group provides birth parents with the opportunity to meet up with each other in a supportive and non-judgemental environment.



For more information please contact us:

The Adoption Team

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

42 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BW

Phone: 020 8891 7754

E-mail: adoption@richmond.gov.uk

Website: www.richmond.gov.uk/adoption

Contact request form for birth relatives

(please fill out, detach and send to us at the address opposite)

I am a birth relative of an adopted adult and I would like to request an intermediary service from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

My name: _____

My address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

I wish to make contact with:

Name of birth relative: _____

Date of birth (if known): _____

Date of adoption (if known): _____

Place of adoption (if known): _____

Court where adoption took place (if known): _____

The name of the agency that arranged the adoption (if known):



Other organisations that may also be able to help:

My relationship with the birth relative: _____

I enclose the following documentation as evidence of my relationship with my birth relative:

- birth certificate
- marriage certificate
- other documentation (please state) _____

Any other information that may be relevant:

National Organisation for Counselling Adoptees and their Parents (NORCAP)

112 Church Road
Wheatley, Oxon, OX33 1LU
Phone: 01865 875 000
Website: www.norcap.org.uk

Natural Parents Network (NPN)

41 The Lindens, Friern Park
North Finchley, London, N12 9DL
Phone: 01273 3075997 (Helpline)
Fax: 01273 307597
Website: www.n-p-n.co.uk

Post Adoption Centre

5 Torriano Mews
Torriano Avenue
London, NW5 2RZ
Phone: 0870 777 2197
Website: www.postadoptioncentre.org.uk

Adoption Search and Reunion

British Association for Adoption and Fostering
Saffron House
6-10 Kirby Street
London, EC1N 8TS
Phone: 020 7421 2600
Website: www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk

What did you think of this leaflet? If you have any feedback,
please contact us on: 020 8891 7754

Nese keni veshtersi per te kuptuar kete botim, ju lutemi ejani ne recepcionin ne adresen e shenuar me poshte ku ne mund te organizojme perkthime nepermjet telefonit.

إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الإستقبال في العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية هاتفية.

এই প্রকাশনার অর্থ বুঝতে পারায় যদি আপনার কোন সমস্যা হয়, নিচে দেওয়া ঠিকানায় রিসেপশন-এ চলে আসুন যেখানে আমরা আপনাকে টেলিফোনে দোভাষীর সেবা প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা করতে পারবো।

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به مین پذیرش در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایید تا ترتیب ترجمه تلفنی برایتان فراهم آورده شود:

જો તમને આ પુસ્તિકાની વિગતો સમજવામાં મુશ્કેલી પડતી હોય તો, કૃપયા નીચે જણાવેલ સ્થળના રિસેપ્શન પર આવો, જ્યાં અમે ટેલિફોન પર ગુજરાતીમાં ઇન્ટરપ્રિટીંગ સેવાની ગોઠવણ કરી આપીશું.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

اگر آپ کو اس اشاعت کو سمجھنے میں کوئی مشکل ہے تو، براؤزر میچے دیئے ہوئے ایڈریس کے استقبالیے پر جا کر ملیئے، جہاں ہم آپ کیلئے ٹیلیفون انٹر پریٹنگ سروس (ٹیلیفون پرتعمانی کی سروس) کا انتظام کر سکتے ہیں۔

Adoption Team, 42 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BW

Please contact the Adoption team on
020 8891 7754 or adoption@richmond.gov.uk
if you need this document in Braille, large
print, audio tape or another language

Visit us online at www.richmond.gov.uk/adoption

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