

Legally speaking.....

# Did you know?

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## ADOPTION INFORMATION REGISTRIES

The BC Adoption Services agency operates two registries: a passive registry and an active one. There is a fee. If you are adopted, you can register in either Registry when you become nineteen years old.

### Passive Registry

- You can search for a birth parent, or brothers or sisters who were also adopted.
- A birth parent can search for children who are now adults.
- If you and the birth relative have both registered and you both consent, a social worker will arrange an exchange of information or reunion.

### Active Registry

- You or a birth relative can register.
- Greater fees apply, and you must provide documents from the Vital Statistics Agency to confirm your identity.
- The Registry staff will look for the person you are seeking. They will ask that person if they are interested in a reunion with you. If the answer is "yes", a reunion will be arranged.
- If you or a birth relative do not want to be contacted, you can tell the Registry staff and/or file a veto which states that you do not want a reunion.

### For More Information

Adoption Reunion Registry: **250-387-3660**  
Toll-free access within BC: **1-877-387-3660**

### Adoption Agreements

**Openness agreements** are allowed under the Adoption Act to continue the relationship between the birth family and the adoptive family. If you are the birth parent or adoptive parent of a child under the age of 19, you can register with the Director of Adoptions that you would like to make an openness agreement. The terms of the agreement can vary - from little communication with the birth family to even visits. The following are some of the openness agreements that are allowed under the Adoption Act.

**Closed Adoption:** Information is given as long as it doesn't identify the people involved. No contact.

**Restricted Open Adoption:** Pictures or letters are shared using a third person. No direct contact.

**Semi-open Adoption:** A meeting before placement that maintains the anonymity of all involved. Birth and adoptive parents can exchange pictures, letters for a pre-arranged period of time.

**Fully Disclosed Adoption:** Adoptive and birth parents share identifying information for a limited time. Continuing Fully Disclosed Adoption: Birth parents can visit the adoptive family throughout the child's life.



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