

How to register a veto

If we arranged your adoption and you would like to talk to us about the possibility of registering a veto, please don't hesitate to get in touch with:

Gail Jackson
Adoption Support Manager
Faith in Families
7 Colwick Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 5FR



Is there anything else I can do to make my wishes clear?

The General Register Office (GRO) runs an Adoption Contact Register. Adopted people and birth relatives over the age of 18 can use this to register whether they wish or do not wish to have contact with each other. We are happy to give you further information about this, or you can visit the GRO website (see below).

I'm not sure what I want...

If you would like to have an opportunity to consider all the options and their implications, you are very welcome to contact us on 0115 955 8811. In fact, we would welcome hearing from you if you would like to talk over anything to do with your adoption.

This leaflet has been produced by Faith in Families, using some information with the kind permission of BAAF, from the following website:
www.adoptionsearchreunion.co.uk

Faith in Families, 7 Colwick Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5FR

For more information on the work of Faith in Families and details on how you can support our work:

T 0115 955 8811 F 0115 955 8822 E enquiries@faithinfamilies.org

www.faithinfamilies.org

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Contact with your birth family

What to do if you want it

What to do if you don't want it

What to do if you aren't sure what you want

A leaflet for adopted adults and young people who were adopted through the Catholic Children's Society, Nottingham or Faith in Families

Services for adopted adults who wish to make contact with adult birth relatives

Many people who have been adopted feel, at some time in their lives, that they would like to find out more about their birth family. Some decide they would like to meet up with their birth parents or other relatives. If you are over 18 you are legally entitled to have a copy of your original birth certificate. You are also able to ask an Agency, which provides intermediary services such as ourselves, to approach adult birth relatives on your behalf to see if you they would like to have contact with you.

We, Faith in Families, are a registered Intermediary Agency and if your adoption was arranged through us you are welcome to approach us, once you are 18, to discuss either of the above services. You may also find it helpful to receive information from our records about the circumstances of your adoption.

What if a birth relative wants to contact me?

Adults who have a relative who was adopted may ask an Intermediary Agency to help them.

This means there is a possibility that once you are 18, you may receive an approach from the Faith in Families or another Agency acting on behalf of one or more of your birth relatives, to ask you how you would feel about having contact with them.

Your birth relatives cannot be given your adopted name, so they cannot approach you directly.

They can only ask an Intermediary Agency to approach you on their behalf, so that your privacy is protected. It would then be up to you to decide how much, if any, information you wished to give them about yourself.

Great! I'd really like to hear from my birth family...

You may think it's really good that your birth relatives can apply for this service and you may be hoping to hear from them through an Intermediary Agency. If you do feel that way, it may be worth considering getting in touch with us to discuss this. In fact, you may want to consider asking us to act as an Intermediary on your behalf.

Oh no! I really don't want to hear from my birth family...

If, on the other hand, you don't want an Intermediary Agency to approach you about possible contact with a birth relative, you have no cause to worry. You are legally entitled to block any such approach. You do this by registering a veto. All adopted adults are entitled to register a veto.

What is a veto?

There are two kinds of veto:

1. **An Absolute Veto.** This says that in no circumstances do you wish to be approached by an Intermediary Agency.
2. **A Qualified Veto.** This says there are some circumstances set out by yourself, in which you would or would not want an Intermediary agency to contact you.

For example, you could say that you want to be contacted only if there were some important medical information that someone needed to pass on to you; or you could say that you would not want to be contacted until, for example, you have finished university, or your children have started school.

How vetoes work

If you want to register a veto, you have to do it with the Adoption Agency through which you were adopted. Although your birth relatives can ask any Intermediary Agency to approach you on their behalf, the law forbids that Intermediary Agency from contacting you without first getting in touch with your Adoption Agency.

If your Adoption Agency informs them that you have registered an *Absolute Veto*, the Intermediary Agency is not allowed, in any circumstances, to approach you.

If you have registered a *Qualified Veto*, they will be allowed to contact you only in the circumstances you have set out.