





Support for Birth Relatives in Adoption Search and Intermediary Services

A search and intermediary service is a specialist service that's provided by a registered adoption agency, who can help search for an adopted birth relative and make an approach to let them know of your interest in making contact.

 **0300 123 1066**
www.adoptionmatters.org

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A proud history of children's futures

Support for birth relatives in adoption

Search and intermediary services

What is a search and intermediary service?

A search and intermediary service is a specialist service that's provided by a registered adoption agency, like Adoption Matters, who can help search for an adopted birth relative and make an approach to let them know of your interest in making contact.

Before you start the process

Before using the services of a search and intermediary service, we would recommend that you access the General Register Office website and add your details to the Adoption Contact Register. This means that if the adopted person has already added their details, they will be informed of your interest in contact with them and given any details you have left on the register. You will not be given their details, as the adopted person will have the control in this situation. There is a £30 one off charge for entering your name on the register. The link to the Adoption Contact Register is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/adoption-records/the-adoption-contact-register>

Services Adoption Matters offer

Initial consultation, cost £100 for 1 to 1.5 hours

This will include having sight of your ID and a discussion around what you already know and what you hope to achieve. A discussion will also take place about the potential that the person you are searching for cannot be found, or does not want any contact. We will then make contact with the adoption agency who arranged the adoption, and seek their view about approaching the adoptee and any potential contact taking place. We will also ask for information, which will help us trace the adoptee. This information will not be shared with you and only an agency registered to provide intermediary services can request this information.

It may be that we have to approach the General Register Office to provide information about the adopted adult to help us search for them. If we need to do this, we will ask you to complete a Form AF5 and make a one-off payment of £36 to the GRO.

Tracing Service, cost £300. Up to 5 hours.

Additional hours, for more complex searches, costed at £60 per hour.

Having identified the adopted adult you wish to search for, we will then work to find them on your behalf. We will use our extensive experience in this field and search public records, social media and other subscription-based services. We may need to access birth, marriage or death certificates, to validate the person's identity. The cost of up to two certificates is included in our cost. If the search proves to be more complex then we will ask you to cover the cost of any additional certificates (currently £11 each).



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**Intermediary service, cost £300. Up to 5 hours of work.
Additional hours costed at £60 per hour.**

Once we have identified the location of the person you wish to have contact with, we will begin the process of approaching them. Once contact is established, we would then support you in gradually sharing and receiving information be that by letter, email or telephone calls.

The final stage would be a reunion, where you will meet with the adopted adult in a safe environment, supported by our staff.

Travel charges for reunions

Reunions will take place in an Adoption Matters office, or if the service user wishes us to travel to their preferred venue, we will include any incurred travel costs to be paid by the service user at 45p a mile, along with a charge of £30.00 per hour for travel time for the Adoption Matters worker.

If you are interested in accessing this service, or just want to learn more about what we support you with, please email us at: postadoption@adoptionmatters.org

About Adoption Matters

Adoption Matters is a children's charity and voluntary adoption agency established in 1947. We have been providing a support and guidance service for adopted children, adults and birth families for over 50 years.

We cover the whole of the North of England, parts of Wales, Stoke, Stafford and Shropshire. We are the ONLY adoption service in the UK rated Outstanding by Ofsted, 5 times in a row.



Head Office: 14 Liverpool Road, Chester, CH1 2AE.

Also offices in: Warrington, Manchester, Hale, Blackburn, Stoke, Leeds and Durham.

Email: postadoption@adoptionmatters.org



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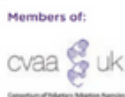
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Ofsted 'Outstanding' since 2008 – the ONLY adoption service in the UK rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted 5 times in a row.



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