

An open letter to adult adoptees and birth parents in Alberta

On January 1, 2021, changes to post-adoption disclosure legislation took effect that may affect you.

The Ministry of Children's Services is now able to release identifying biological background information to an adopted person or their descendants, siblings and biological parents, unless a specific veto has been filed. If a birth parent is deceased, we are now able to release information to a biological grandparent, aunt or uncle of the adoptee.

On adoptions granted prior to 2005, birth parents and adoptees have the right to file a disclosure veto to prevent the disclosure of their personal information.

To respect the balance between information disclosure and the right to privacy, additional information will not be released to siblings until July 1, 2021. This grace period is to allow adopted persons to have time during the transition period to submit a veto, if they choose to.

Adoptees involved in adoptions prior to 2005 who are not yet 18, will have until they turn the age of 18 plus 6 months to file a veto.

The option to file a veto will no longer be possible after 12:00 a.m. on July 1, 2021.

This does not affect individuals involved in adoptions completed after 2005, as disclosure vetoes were no longer allowed in adoptions completed in Alberta after that time.

This legislative change was made to help those previously impacted by closed adoption practices and to remove barriers for extended family members applying to have contact with an adoptee. Family members, such as grandparents, no longer require birth parent consent to register with the Post Adoption Registry.

Band members and Metis Settlement members can also register to connect with an adoptee from their same band or settlement.

Should you wish to file a veto to prevent the Post Adoption Registry from sharing your personal information, complete the form and return it to the Alberta Post Adoption Registry.

NOTE: A veto prohibits the Post Adoption Registry from releasing your identifying information from the adoption record. However, a person may still obtain information about you from another source (i.e. another family member, DNA testing, etc.). If you register a veto, you may cancel it at anytime and it is revoked upon your passing.

For more information, visit www.alberta.ca/post-adoption-disclosure.aspx