

DFPS Voluntary Adoption Registry (VAR)

About DFPS VAR

The DFPS Voluntary Adoption Registry is a mutual-consent registry. It is designed to allow adoptee, birth parents, and/or birth siblings who are at least 18 years of age and who were placed for adoption by DFPS or who are looking for a person adopted by DFPS to voluntarily attempt to locate one another by listing in the registry.

How Does It Work?

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services also known as The Texas Department of Public Welfare, Child Protective Services, or The Texas Department of Human Services, must have been involved in the placement and adoption of the adoptee.

A "match" occurs when an adopted person and his/her birth parent or biological sibling register. Registrants are then instructed to attend at least one hour of counseling to help prepare for a reunion. The person providing the counseling must have adoption and search/reunion expertise. The counseling will explore a variety of pertinent issues relating to your search and possible reunification. After you and the other parties have completed the required counseling, the registry can release the name, address and phone number of the matched registrant.

Requirements

- Person registering must be 18 years of age or older.
- Provide sufficient proof of identity (copies of birth certificate, driver's license, passport, marriage certificate, etc.).
- Pay \$15 to complete the registration. Please make check or money orders payable to **TDFPS-VAR** and mail to:

Supplemental information may be requested from the matching parties (i.e., photographs, letters, updated medical and social information, etc.) to prepare each registrant during the reunion process.

If you are an adoptee:

Place and date of birth; full adoptive name and birth name, if known; names of adoptive parents and city of placement; date and county/court of adoption; any known information about biological family (names, ages, story behind placement into adoption.), proof of age and identity, physical and/or e-mail address, and complete phone number.

If you are a birth sibling:

Names/ages/places of birth of biological parents; when and where siblings were placed for adoption, dates of birth of all siblings; year of adoption(s) or year removed from the home and placed in foster care (what city/year). Also provide proof of your age and identity, physical and/or e-mail address and complete phone number.

If you are a birth parent:

If a birth mother, your full name (including maiden if applicable) and any aliases used at time of termination of parental rights or waiver of interest and date of same; birth name of each child; date of birth and city/hospital where the child(ren) were born; and name and date of birth of other birth parent(s); proof of your age and identity, currently, and at time of the child's placement into foster/adoptive care. Physical and/or e-mail address and phone number.

Voluntary Adoption Registry Application

The application can be fill out on line, print and mail using a word document or in a PDF format to print and mail to:

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Adoption Registry -- Mail Code E-557
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, TX 78714-9030
512/438-5646

Other Registries

There are approximately 40 voluntary adoption registries in Texas.

Texas Department of Health, Central Adoption Registry (CAR), maintains a list of "child-placing" agencies that operate these registries and/or provide post-adoption services, including intermediary services. If adopted through one of these child-placing agencies, the CAR will identify the agency, so that you may also register with that registry.

The TDH/BVS Central Adoption Registry houses many, but not all, adoption records from child-placing agencies that no longer place children for adoption. If you placed or were placed for adoption by an agency that sent their records to the bureau, you qualify to receive an edited copy of that record.

DFPS Closed Adoption Records

The TDFPS Closed Adoption Records unit maintains adoption records for individuals that have been adopted through the child protective services program.

How Can I Get My Records?

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services also known as The Texas Department of Public Welfare, Child Protective Services, or The Texas Department of Human Services, must have been involved in the placement and adoption of the adoptee. In the State of Texas, adoption records are sealed by law. However, an adoptee can obtain a redacted copy of their adoption record. The redacted copy will have certain personal information deleted to ensure privacy of the involved individuals.

Requirements

Person requesting a copy of their closed adoption records must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Provide sufficient proof of identity (copies of birth certificate, driver's license, passport, marriage certificate, etc.).
- Complete and sign the Request for Records form 4885 and mail to:

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Closed Adoption Records, Mail Code E-557
P.O. Box 149030
Austin, TX 78714-9030
(512) 438-5646

To inquire if DFPS was involved in your adoption, please call 512-438-5646.

Contact us at: adoptionrecords@dfps.state.tx.us

NOTE: *If your adoption was consummated through a private adoption placement agency, your records will be maintained either by that placement agency, or the Central Adoption Registry. If you are unsure of what agency placed you, please contact the Central Adoption Registry at 512-458-7388. The Central Adoption Registry is maintained by the Texas Department of Health.*

Request for Records - Form 4885

- WORD document - Fill out Request for Records Form on line, print and mail to the above address.
- PDF document - Print document, complete form and mail to the above address.

All Requests for records and proof of identity must be mailed; Faxed requests will not be accepted.