

Dear Triad Member:

We have assembled in this brochure a brief outline of the resources you may be interested in as you consider the next step of your post-adoption search. The legal guidelines may, at first, be discouraging but please realize that there are resources in the community to assist you in completing a successful search.

We wish you well in your adoption journey and hope this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Tuscarawas County  
Job & Family Services'  
Placement Services Unit



Hand-in-Hand Support

## Adoption Terminology

**Adoption Triad**—refers to the three parties involved in the adoption process; birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptee.

**Non-identifying information**—includes social and medical history and everything not listed as identifying information (see below). Adoption agencies are only permitted to release non-identifying information.

**Identifying Information**—refers to any part of the name, address, telephone number, personal identification numbers, date of birth, and place of employment.

Tuscarawas County  
Job & Family Services  
389 16th Street, SW  
New Philadelphia, Ohio  
44663

Phone: (330) 339-7791  
FAX: (330) 339-6388  
TTY/TTD: 1-800-750-0750

E-Mail: [help@tcjfs.org](mailto:help@tcjfs.org)  
Web Site: [www.tcjfs.org](http://www.tcjfs.org)



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## Post-Adoption Search

Search The Path to Information . . .

Getting Started . . .



## Legal Access to Information in Ohio

### ‡ Who May Search?

Birth parents, birth siblings, adoptees, and adoptive parents.

### ‡ Adopted Prior to January 1, 1964

- ◇ Access to copies of your original birth certificate and adoption record.
- ◇ Please call the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) at 614-466-4784 for more information and forms for submitting a request.
- ◇ Receive non-identifying information from the placing agency. (You will need to contact this agency directly.)

### ‡ Adopted after January 1, 1964, and became eligible for adoption prior to September 18, 1996

- ◇ Receive only non-identifying information from placing agency.
- ◇ May petition court to request ODH Vital Statistics to search for releases received from the biological parent(s).
- ◇ If a medical or special circumstance exists may motion probate court for release for identifying information.

### ‡ Adopted after September 18, 1996

- ◇ Adoption records may be opened if an authorization by the biological parent(s) is on file and the adopted person is older than 21, or by the adoptive parent if adopted person is between 18-21 years old.



Information Source: ODJFS; Office for Family and Children, Bureau on Adoption and Kinship. "Search Fact Sheet: Frequently Asked Questions" and Ohio Revised Code.

## Ohio Adoption Registry

A registry maintained by the Ohio Department of Health listing all birth parents and siblings that have filed an authorization for release of information to the adoptee. Before information may be released, the birth family must file an authorization for release and the adoptee must petition probate court. Call 614-466-4784 for more information or you can access their website, on-line at: [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov). In the A-Z Index, click V; then click Vital Records; on the left column click Adoption Information (03/11/2010).

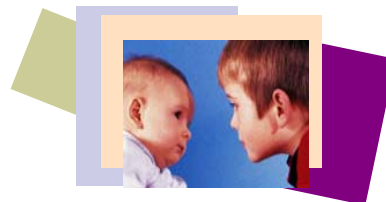
## International Soundex Reunion Registry

This registry is a non-profit endeavor that began in the 1970s. This national database is located in Nevada. Any family member separated by adoption, divorce, or foster care may register. They do not offer an on-line database, but you may access their registration form on-line at <http://www.isrr.net>. The organization does not charge for this service. If there is a match, you will be notified.

## Related Website

Child Welfare Information Gateway—defines adoption terminology, delineates the adoption laws by states, and provides getting started adoption search information.

<http://www.childwelfare.gov>



## Adoption Network Cleveland

Adoption Network Cleveland (ANC) is a support organization for adoption triad members in Northeast Ohio. ANC, a non-profit membership-based organization, assists individuals with adoption searches. These individuals can live in Northeast Ohio or may live in other areas with an adoption originating in Northeast Ohio. Recognizing that search is an emotional journey, the organization also holds monthly support meetings for all adoption triad members. In addition, direct search assistance is provided. You may contact Adoption Network Cleveland by phone at 216-325-1000 or visit their website at [www.adoptionnetwork.org](http://www.adoptionnetwork.org).

## Reunite of Ohio, Inc.

Reunite of Ohio is a non-profit resource center serving the adoption community in Central Ohio. Services offered by reunite include:

- Public education
- One-on-one meetings
- Library
- Speakers
- Bureau and adoption search coordination
- Reunion consultation

You may contact Reunite of Ohio at:

P.O. Box 461  
Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338  
Hotline (419) 946-9443  
[www.reuniteofohio.org](http://www.reuniteofohio.org)