

Fall 2009

Tuscarawas County Job & Family Services Post-Adoption Link Newsletter

Adoption Resources

Here at TCJFS, we receive many phone calls from adoptive parents and/or adult adoptees about searching for birth relatives, both parents and siblings.

Therefore, we thought it might be helpful to devote an issue of our Post-Adoption Link Newsletter to **SEARCHING FOR BIRTH RELATIVES**.

The contents of this issue includes:

- ⇒ Adoption search terminology;
- ⇒ An article about Searching for Birth Relatives
- ⇒ A list of Resources for Searching:
 - International Soundex Reunion Registry (ISRR) and sample form
 - Ohio Adoption Registry
- ⇒ A list of Ohio Organizations that assist with searches:
 - Adoption Network Cleveland
 - Reunite of Ohio
- ⇒ Information on Legal Access to Personal Adoption Information of Ohio.

Additionally, we have included in this issue registration information about the **19th Annual Conference on Promoting Healthy Attachments**, at Oglebay Resort and Convention Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. This year, the workshops include “You’re a Better Parent Than You Think,” “Challenges in Treating Attachment Trauma,” “Trauma, Attachment & Treatment,” and “Working with Adopted Adolescents and Their Families.”

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Inside this Issue:

Article	2-9
Adoption Terminology	10
Legal Access to Information in Ohio	10
Listing of Organizations for Searches	11
Listing of Resources for Searching	12
19th Annual Conference	14, 15

Searching for Birth Relatives

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www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_search.cfm

While interest among adopted persons in finding their birth families has always been high, the percentage of adult-adopted persons who take action to initiate a search appears to be on the rise. This trend is accompanied by a growing interest on the part of many birth parents in searching for their (now) adult children who were placed for adoption many years earlier. The expanding number of organizations that advocate searching for birth relatives and provide advice and resources for doing so indicate both increased interest in and acceptance of this process. New legislation in some States permits more access to birth information, and new technology has the potential to make the searching process faster. A recent study shows that adopted persons are more likely to seek out information about their birth families now than in the past (Harris Interactive Market Research, 2002). And a study that reviewed estimates abroad and in the United States suggests that 50 percent of all adopted persons search at some point in their lives (Muller & Perry, 2001a).

The purpose of this factsheet is to provide some guidance on the search process and information access, as well as resources for further help in conducting a successful search. This factsheet is designed to address the concerns of both adopted persons who are searching for birth parents or other birth relatives, as well as birth parents (both mothers and fathers) who want to locate a child who was adopted. While not a complete “how to” guide, this factsheet provides general information on searching and reunion.

In addition, a list of resources is included at the end. The list includes websites on searching, books and articles, and more. The Child Welfare Information Gateway (Information Gateway) website (www.childwelfare.gov) is a good starting point for resource information.

The Decision to Search

Adults who were adopted as infants or young children are the most common group of people searching for adoption information and birth relatives. This group most often searches for birth mothers first (Muller & Perry, 2001b), but may later seek out birth fathers, siblings, or other birth relatives. An event in the life of an adopted person, for instance, the birth of a child or death of an adoptive parent, may trigger the actual search (American Adoption Congress, 2002).

Other groups that search include birth parents searching for children placed for adoption years earlier and a growing number of adoptive parents who search in order to know more about their adoptive children's background or medical history (Freundlich, 2001). In addition, some national organizations that work with children in foster care report increased interest by siblings in finding their siblings who were placed with other families.

The question of why an adopted person or birth parent searches for birth relatives has as many answers as there are searchers. Some of the more common reasons include the following:

- **General family information.** Searchers may want to know the names of their birth relatives, where they live, and what they are like. Birth parents may want to know whether their birth children have been happy and well treated.
- **Family traits and personalities.** Many adopted persons and birth parents want to know how their birth relatives look and act and whether they share similar traits.
- **Medical history information.** Information on genetic diseases and conditions can be crucial for safeguarding an adopted person's own health and the health of their biological children. (The desire or need for family medical history is sometimes the only reason that will compel a judge to open sealed adoption records.)
- **Circumstances of the adoption.** Often, adopted persons feel a need to know why they were placed for adoption or why the rights of the birth parent were terminated and how that decision was made. Birth parents may want the opportunity to explain the circumstances to their child.

Steps in the Search Process

Every search is unique in its unfolding, but there are a number of steps and resources common to most searches. This section of the factsheet addresses the steps in the search process, including:

1. Emotional preparation
2. Assembling known information
3. Researching relevant State laws
4. Registering with reunion registries
5. Obtaining missing documents
6. Filing court petitions

1. **Emotional preparation.** Both adopted persons and birth parents should expect to prepare emotionally for the search process. Such preparation may include reading about other adopted persons' or birth parents' search and reunion experiences and talking to others who are going through or have gone through the same process. Support groups for adopted persons or for birth parents who are searching can be extremely helpful, not only in providing emotional support but also in sharing practical information. (For a State-by-State listing of support groups, see the Information Gateway's National Foster Care & Adoption Directory at www.childwelfare.gov/nfcad.)

Gathering emotional support from family and friends also can be helpful. Adopted persons may be reluctant to share their decision to search with their adoptive parents for fear of hurting their feelings. However, in many cases, adoptive parents can be an enormous source of support, as well as a source of information. Adoptive parents may take some comfort from knowing that an adopted person's decision to search usually has nothing to do with dissatisfaction with the adoptive parents (Brodzinsky, Schechter & Henig, 1992).

The search process may trigger a number of different emotions at different stages for the searcher. At certain stages, some searchers may feel that they need more emotional or moral support than they are receiving from family, friends, and support groups. In these situations, they may want to talk to a professional counselor. Searchers who seek professional counseling will want to ensure that the counselor is familiar with adoption issues. (See the Information Gateway's factsheet on selecting adoption therapists at www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/r_tips.cfm.) In addition, some State laws require a meeting with a counselor before a reunion takes place.

2. **Assembling known information.** Once a decision has been made to search, the first step involves gathering all known and easily obtainable information. For adopted persons, this may mean talking to adoptive parents to find out the name of the adoption agency, attorney, or facilitator involved in the adoption. It also means pulling together all readily available documents, such as the amended birth certificate, hospital records, and any other information, no matter how unimportant it may seem at the time. Birth, death, marriage, divorce, school, church, genealogy, health, military, DMV, and property records related to the birth kin all have potential usefulness for leading to a name and location of a birth parent or birth child. It may be helpful to organize and record all information in a central place for easy reference.
3. **Researching relevant State laws.** Searchers may want to become informed about State laws regarding adoption and records access in the State(s) in which they were born and adopted, keeping in mind that some State laws vary according to the applicable years. Access to information about State laws as well as which States offer reunion registries can be found at the Information Gateway website (www.childwelfare.gov). (Other websites that maintain databases or updates on State laws are included in the Resource List at the end of this factsheet.)
4. **Registering with reunion registries.** A number of States, as well as private organizations, offer reunion registries that allow adopted persons and birth parents to register the fact that they are searching for each other. Most of these reunion registries are “passive,” meaning that both parties, e.g., the adopted person and the birth mother, must independently register in order for a match to be made. When both parties register at the same passive registry and a match is made, registry officials share the mutual information and help to arrange for contact. Passive registries do not actively search for the other party.

The largest passive registry is the International Soundex Reunion Registry (www.isrr.net). This is open to all adopted adults over 18 years of age, all birth parents, and all adoptive parents of adopted children under 18 years of age.

There are also a number of “active” registries that charge fees to actually go out and search for the birth relative. Some of these are State registries that will initiate a search for a fee. Others are maintained by private search and support groups.

There are few reliable statistics on the success rate of these registries; however, as expected, passive registries tend to show a much lower match rate than active registries. One study of passive State registries found an average success rate of less than 5 percent in 1998, with only two States showing double-digit success rates (Mitchell, Nast, Busharis & Hasegawa, 1999).

5. **Obtaining missing documents.** At this point, the searcher may want to attempt to acquire some of the missing documents that could help with the search. There are many types of documents that may lead to locating a birth parent or child or provide a breakthrough to this information. The following is a list of potentially helpful documents:
 - **Adoption agency records**—If the name of the adoption agency is known, the searcher can request non-identifying information or even records. For instance, in her 1998 book, *Search: A Handbook for Adoptees and Birthparents*, Jayne Askin provides an extensive list of possible questions to be addressed to the agency, including questions about siblings, medical information, and consent to release information. Askin also recommends that the searcher

supply a waiver of confidentiality to the agency, so that information about the searcher can be provided to the birth child or birth parent, if that individual also contacts the agency.

- **Hospital records**—Hospital records, when they can be obtained, may provide information on the birth mother, birth father, attending physician, and incidental health information. Adopted persons generally need to know their birth name, as well as the hospital's name and location. If the searcher has difficulty obtaining these records, a request made by a doctor may have a better chance for success.
- **Birth records**—Most adopted persons will not have their original birth certificate but will have, instead, an amended document listing their adoptive parents' names. However, there are a few States that allow adopted adults to have access to their original birth certificate. (See Information Gateway information on access to adoption records at www.childwelfare.gov/adopted/obtain/index.cfm.) In other States, the original birth certificate may be available if the adopted person petitions the court.
- **Court adoption file**—The court adoption records consist of a number of documents, including the original, unaltered birth certificate; petition to adopt; finalization papers or final decree; consent to adopt from birth parent(s), relinquishment papers, or orders terminating parental rights; and any agency or attorney papers, including information about birth parents. Many of these documents may also be available elsewhere. For instance, adoptive parents should have copies of the court proceedings finalizing the adoption, although the final court order will not provide the names of the birth parents. If this is not available, an adopted person searching for birth parents may be able to contact the attorney or law firm that handled the adoption to obtain it. A request may also be made to the court. Often, identifying information will be blacked out of the court-supplied document; however, there may be some remaining clues that are helpful. The final adoption papers should provide the name of the attorney, judge, and agency involved in the proceedings. This information may lead to discovering other useful clues.
- **Other court records**—While most or all of the court records may be officially sealed, in some cases a searcher may be able to view the court's Docket Appearance Book, a daily record of who appeared in court and why on a particular day, or even the Minute Book log, with the results of each court appearance (Culligan, 1996). Also, local newspapers from the time of the adoption may carry a notice of the filing of the Petition to Adopt in the classified section. This normally includes the name of the couple adopting, as well as the birth name of the child/infant and the name of the social worker assigned to the case (Culligan, 1996).
- **Other types of records**—Other potentially useful records may include physician records, newspapers (for birth announcements), cemetery and mortuary records, probate records, Social Security information, records of military service, school records (including yearbooks), marriage licenses, divorce or annulment papers, DMV documents, and death certificates.

6. **Filing a court petition.** If none of the above have been successful, adopted persons may petition the court to have the sealed adoption records opened. Whether this is successful may depend on the State, the particular judge, the reason given for the request, and any number of other factors. Petitioning the court does not require an attorney's services, but a petitioner may choose to hire an attorney.

The judge may deny the petition completely or agree to release only non-identifying information or a summary. In some States, the judge may appoint an intermediary, such as the original adoption agency or a professional searcher, to locate the birth parents and determine whether or not they want to release information or be reunited with the adopted person. In other cases, the

petitioner may be able to request the appointment of a confidential intermediary, who will conduct a search (for a fee) and determine if the birth parents are willing to be contacted.

Following these steps may lead the searcher to enough identifying information that birth relatives can be located. In cases in which the search seems to be leading nowhere, the searcher may want to review information or begin to research such things as alternative spellings of names or places. In some cases, information may have been falsified, making it difficult or impossible to continue the search without new information.

Hiring a Professional Searcher

Adopted persons or birth parents searching for birth relatives have the option of hiring a professional searcher. In some cases, it may be useful to hire a professional searcher if specific information needs to be located in another State. For instance, a professional searcher may be able to search courthouse or church records in a faraway locality. This limited professional help may be enough to allow the adopted person or birth parent to continue his or her own search.

Individuals who choose to hire a professional searcher should research the reputation of the searcher or company. There are some searchers who have a certification from Independent Search Consultants (www.iscsearch.com), a non-profit organization that trains in adoption searching. Other searchers may be licensed as private investigators by a particular locality. Individuals should ask whether private investigators have specific adoption search experience before making a decision to hire them. Other professional searchers may be experts in a particular locality or a particular field but may not have a certification. Before hiring anyone, it is crucial to call references and to check with the Better Business Bureau. In addition, support groups can be a ready source of information about professional searchers.

In some cases, a court or agency may refuse to open sealed records or provide full information in response to a petition or request; however, the court or agency may appoint a professional searcher. In such cases, this professional searcher serves as an intermediary whose job is to locate and contact the birth parents (or birth child) and to find out whether they want to have their name and address revealed and whether they want to resume contact. The professional is given access to sealed records, but the petitioner (who generally receives no access to records) pays the fee of the professional searcher. If nothing is found, or if the found person refuses to release information or agree to contact, there is generally no recourse (except that the adopted person or birth parent can continue to search on his or her own).

International Searching

People who were adopted from outside the United States (through inter-country adoptions) face unique challenges in locating birth parents. Each country has its own laws governing information access. In addition, there is great variation in record-keeping practices across counties and cultures and, in many cases, searchers will find that no information was ever recorded, that records were misplaced, or that cultural practices placed little emphasis on accurate recordkeeping. However, in a very few cases, it may actually be easier to gain access to an original birth certificate in a foreign country than in the United States, since some counties do not seal their vital records.

The child-placing agency is the best beginning point for an international search. The U.S. agency should be able to share the name and location of the agency or orphanage abroad and, perhaps, the names of caregivers, attorneys, or others involved in the placement or adoption. The agency or its counterpart abroad may be able to provide specific information on names, dates, and places. They also

may be able to offer some medical history, biographical information on parents, and circumstances regarding the adoption.

Some other resources for international searchers include the following:

- Adopted persons seeking documents (such as a birth certificate) that the U.S. or foreign child-placing agency is not able to provide may want to apply to government agencies in the birth country. Mailing addresses of offices of vital records in foreign countries can be found on the U.S. State Department website at www.travel.state.gov/visa/reciprocity/index.htm.
- Searchers adopted from another country can contact the U.S. citizenship and Immigration Services (<http://uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm>) to receive copies of their immigration records.
- An international agency that may offer help is International Social Services, which provides a broad range of social work services, including helping adopted persons find birth families abroad. Their U.S. branch has a website at www.iss-usa.org.
- Support groups for adopted persons from particular countries may be able to offer help and information on searching. Countries that have placed a large number of children with families in the United States, such as Korea, have support groups and organizations with websites and search information. (See the Resource List at the end of this factsheet.)

In general, searching overseas is more difficult than searching in the United States. In cases in which the search for the birth parent is unsuccessful, some adopted persons may derive some satisfaction from visiting their birth country and experiencing their birth culture. Many agencies and support groups have begun to organize homeland tours for adopted persons and adoptive families. These tours generally provide an introduction to the country and culture. Visiting the birth country for the first time as part of such a group may provide searchers with some emotional security, because the people in the tour group are often looking for answers to similar questions. (The National Foster Care & Adoption Directory lists groups that offer homeland tours: www.childwelfare.gov/nfcad.)

Reunion Issues

Reunions between long-lost birth family members have been the subject of books, articles, and television shows. Two important themes emerge from these accounts:

1. **Participants should be emotionally prepared for the reunion experience.** Adopted persons and birth parents may carry a picture in their mind of the perfect family, but the reunion experience may not live up to that ideal. In preparing for contact and reunion, adopted persons (and birth parents) should prepare for a whole range of realities, including rejection. Although most birth parents are agreeable to further contact, research indicates that a minority—perhaps 9 to 15 percent—reject any contact (Muller & Perry, 2001b).
2. **Pacing the contact can be key to having a successful reunion and relationship.** In a small study of adopted women who experienced reunions with birth kin (Affleck & Steed 2001), it was found that successful reunion experiences were associated with (1) preparation with a support group and (2) a slower pace between initial contact and actual meeting, involving letters and phone calls. This interval between contact and meeting allowed information to be exchanged and gave the “found” relatives some time to become accustomed to the idea. Such an interval can also give the found relatives time to share the news with spouses and children in their family, if they desire.

Some factors that may increase the possibility of a successful, longer-term relationship include (Muller & Perry, 201b):

- The establishment of limits regarding each others' lives
- Support from adoptive parents
- Minimal expectations
- Similar lifestyles and temperaments
- Acceptance by other family members

In many cases, a successful reunion with a birth mother may prompt the adopted adult to continue the search process for the birth father. Meeting with birth siblings also may occur, and each reunion experience requires preparation and time to evolve.

Conclusion

Each search for a birth relative is guided by a unique set of circumstances. The outcome is uncertain and, even when the birth relative is located, the reunion experience does not always turn out as expected. Nonetheless, many adopted persons and birth parents have conducted successful searches and built successful relationships with their new-found relatives. For those who are just beginning the search, the best preparation may be finding out about the search experiences of others. To that end, a list of resources has been included below. In addition, support groups for adopted persons and birth parents across the country can be found in the online National Foster Care & Adoption Directory on the Information Gateway website at www.childwelfare.gov/nfcad.

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Additional Resources

Books and Articles

- Bailey, J.J., & Giddens, L.N. (2001). *The adoption reunion survival guide: Preparing yourself for the search, reunion, and beyond*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, Inc.
- Byrne, M. (2000-2001). Search and reunion etiquette: The guide Miss Manners never wrote. American Adoption Congress (Winter/Spring), 11-13. Retrieved April 14, 2004, from www.americanadoptioncongress.org/articles-archives-search-etiquette.htm
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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.

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.*



A LIST OF OHIO ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ASSIST WITH SEARCHES

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 at:

4614 Prospect Avenue, Suite 550

Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Phone: 216-325-1000

Fax: 216-881-7510

Website: www.adoptionnetwork.org

Adoption Network Cleveland assists members in their searches and have successfully helped birthparents, siblings, adoptees, and even extended families find each other. Their assistance includes providing information on public records, search techniques, and emotional support during your search.

Adoption Network Cleveland has always been a strong advocate for access to birth records and the right of adult adoptees and birth parents to search for each other while taking into consideration some people's desire for privacy. It is their belief that search and reunion can be a powerful experience for all involved.

Since 1988, they have facilitated over 2,000 search and reunions. For more information on searching, call Adoption Network Cleveland and speak to Linda Bellini, Program Coordinator/Adult Adoptees and Birth Parents.

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

Website: www.reuniteofohio.org



A LIST OF RESOURCES FOR SEARCHING

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 online at www.isr.net. The organization does not charge for this service. If there is a match, you will be notified.

For a registry form (**see sample on following page**), send a request and a SASE to ISSR, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, NV 89702. Registry forms are also available at Adoption Network meetings. Do not be daunted by the detailed form; you may not know many of the answers, but fill out what you do know. If you have registered and then have a reunion, please notify Soundex so they can deactivate your registration.

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, online at: www.odh.ohio.gov; then click: Obtaining Birth, Death, Marriage, Divorce Records; then click: Adoption Information.

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>.

INTERNATIONAL SOUNDEX REUNION REGISTRY

Official Registration Form -- Confidential

MAIL TO: ISRR, P.O. BOX 2312, CARSON CITY, NV 89702-2312

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

FILE _____ I
ENTRY _____ II

LN	IS	DOB	CT	CH	BN	AT
----	----	-----	----	----	----	----

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

PLEASE TYPE or PRINT LEGIBLY WITH BLACK INK

This registration is my FIRST ENTRY ☐ an UPDATE ☐I AM THE: CHILD ☐ BIRTH PARENT ☐ SIBLING ☐ OTHER (explain) _____

PRESENT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE HOME (_____) SOCIAL SECURITY # _____

NUMBER(S) WORK (_____) REFERRED BY _____

Information about the CHILD MALE ☐ FEMALE ☐

BIRTH DATE (Month/Day/Year) _____ TIME _____ AM PM BIRTHWEIGHT _____ lb _____ oz

HOSPITAL (Birth Place) _____ ATTENDING PHYSICIAN (or other) _____

CITY OF BIRTH _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____

NAME GIVEN AT BIRTH _____

NAME GIVEN AT ADOPTION _____

ADOPTIVE PARENT'S NAMES _____

BIRTH CERTIFICATE #S -- File # _____ Registrar # _____

IF THIS WAS A PLURAL BIRTH (Twins/Triplets, etc.), How many MALES? _____ How many FEMALES? _____

Were they separated by adoption? YES ☐ NO ☐ Their name(s) _____

COURT OF JURISDICTION _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

ATTORNEY OF RECORD _____ DATE OF DECREE _____

This Adoption was -- PRIVATE ☐ BY AN AGENCY ☐ SOCIAL SERVICE/INTERMEDIARY _____

NAME OF PLACEMENT AGENCY _____ STATE _____

Information About the BIRTH PARENT (if time of separation)

Birth Mother

Birth Father

NAME(S)								
Maiden Name								
Used at time of birth								
Signed on Relinquishment/Consent								
BIRTH DATE	Age				Age			
BIRTH PLACE								
MARITAL STATUS								
RELIGION								
EDUCATION								
OCCUPATION								
MILITARY BRANCH								
ANCESTRY								
DESCRIPTION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES
OTHER CHILDREN								
PARENT'S NAMES								

REMARKS: (use separate sheet if needed)

I, the undersigned hereby give my permission to the International Soun dex Reunion Registry to release this vital information to the person(s) for whom this search is conducted. I understand this permission is necessary for verification of identity, and my relationship to the missing person.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

ALTERNATIVE ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE _____

THIS IS YOUR REGISTRY - YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

THANK YOU!

Registration Form

19th Annual Conference on Promoting Healthy Attachments

November 19 and 20, 2009

(Early registration is encouraged as seating is limited.)

Please submit a SEPARATE registration form for each person attending.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip Code: _____
 E-Mail Address: _____
 Telephone: _____

Registration fees must accompany form. Payment options: Check or Money Order (please no cash)REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Payment payable to fiscal agent: Jefferson County Department of Job & Family Services

Send to: Office of Family & Social Concerns (Catholic Charities), P. O. Box 969, Steubenville, Ohio 43952

Attn: Michele Santin, MA, PCC, LSW, Director

Please check which trainings/activities you plan to attend:Thursday, November 19th, 2009 (full day sessions)☐ You're a Better Parent Than You Think (Guarendi) (6 CEU hours)**OR**☐ Trauma, Attachment & Treatment (Leslie) (6 CEU hours)**AND/OR**☐ Unique Issues of Adoptive Families (Dinner/Training-Keck) (1 CEU hour)Friday, November 20th, 2009 (full day sessions)☐ Challenges in Treating Attachment Trauma (Allen) (5 CEU hours)**OR**☐ Working with Adopted Adolescents (Keck) (5 CEU hours)**FEES:** (includes lunch)

	Insert Appropriate Amount Below:
Conference Discount Rate (two day training attendance), or Thursday, November 19 th Only (6 CEU hours), or Friday, November 20 th Only (5 CEU hours)	\$98.00 \$60.00 \$60.00
PA Social Workers Only... add \$10.00 for each day of attendance CEU fee	\$10.00 or \$20.00
Dinner/ Training @ Oglebay with Gregory C. Keck, Ph.D. (1 CEU hour)	\$39.00
Festival of Lights Bus Ride	\$ 5.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

*This training is being coordinated by Project Attach in conjunction with
 The Diocese of Steubenville,
 Office of Family and Social Concerns (Catholic Charities)
 Michele Santin, MA, PCC, LSW Director
 Contact information: msantin@diocsteub.org TL: (740)282-3631*

Continuing Professional Education--

12 hours of credit available total (6 hrs for either session on Nov. 19th, 1 hr for Dinner session Nov 19th, and 5 hrs for either session on Nov. 20th) for the following licensees:

OH, WV, PA Social Workers; OH Marriage and Family
 Therapist; & OH, WV Professional Counselors

Approval of
 *OH approval of Counselor and Social Worker hours (RCS 090601)
 are provided by Jefferson Behavioral Health System, an approved
 provider of the State of Ohio Counselor and Social Worker and
 Marriage and Family Therapist Board; the number of hours are based
 on the number of minutes of actual presentation, registration and
 breaks do not count.
 *The Office of Family and Social Concerns is an approved provider
 for continuing education hours applicable to WV Counselors,
 #WVBECC-111909.

*WV Social Worker hours provided through the The Diocese of
 Steubenville, an individually approved provider of social work
 continuing education contract hours applicable to WV Social Work
 Licensees; WVBSWE approved provider #499999.

*PA Social Workers RCHs provided through the co-sponsorship of
 the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, a PA approved
 provider of social work continuing education. These credit hours
 satisfy requirements of LSW renewal. For information on social work
 continuing education call (412) 624-3711.

*Belmont County, Ohio: Each full day training is approved for
 Belmont County GALs for three (3) hours of continuing education
 satisfying the Superintendence Rule 48 (Guardians ad Litem).

Conference Sponsors**We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors:**

- * A Child's Place CASA
- * Belmont County Department of Job & Family Services
- * Diocese of Steubenville, Office of Family &
 Social Concerns (Catholic Charities)
- * Domino's Pizza, Wheeling, WV
- * East Central Ohio Regional Training Center
- * Every Child, Inc.
- * Family Service Association
- * Flint, Denise, PCC
- * Fox Run Hospital
- * Guernsey County Children Services Board
- * Harrison County Department of Job & Family Services
- * House of Samuel, Inc.
- * Jefferson Behavioral Health System
- * Jefferson County Department of Job & Family Services
- * Children Services Division (fiscal agent)
- * Jefferson County Prevention & Recovery Board
- * Project Attach
- * Southwood Psychiatric Hospital
- * Teoli, Robin, Ph.D., IMFT, LPC
- * Three Rivers Adoption Council
- * Trinity Behavioral Health/Trinity Health System
- * University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work
- * Wendy's

19th Annual Conference on Promoting Healthy Attachments

*A tri-state effort devoted to understanding the unique
 issues which may affect families parenting children
 who have experienced parental separation and loss
 and learning helpful interventions.*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Ray Guarendi, Ph.D.

*"You're a Better Parent Than You Think"**Or*

Katharine Leslie, Ph.D., CFLE

*"Trauma, Attachment & Treatment: Imperative
 Knowledge and Skills for Effective Clinical and
 Parenting Practices"**AND/OR*

Gregory C. Keck, Ph.D., LISW

*Dinner/Training**"Unique Issues of Adoptive Families"***FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009**

Jon G. Allen, Ph.D.

*"Challenges in Treating Attachment Trauma"**Or*

Gregory C. Keck, Ph.D., LISW

*"Working with Adopted Adolescents and Their
 Families"*

**Up to 12 CEU hours available
 (OH, PA, WV)**

WILSON LODGE

Oglebay Resort and Convention Center
 Wheeling, West Virginia

Registration begins each day at 7:45 a.m.

November 19, 2009

Ray Guarendi, Ph.D.

Dr. Guarendi is an adoptive parent, clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and radio host. His experience includes school districts, Head Start programs, mental health centers, substance abuse programs, inpatient psychiatric centers, juvenile courts, and a private practice. Dr. Ray Guarendi has been a regular guest on national radio and television, including Oprah, Jon Rivers, Scott Ross Prime Time, 700 Club, Gordon Elliot, and CBS This Morning. He's appeared on regional radio and television shows in over 40 states and Canada. He has been the program psychologist for *Cleveland's Morning Exchange*, *Pittsburgh 2-Day*, and *AM Indiana*. He has written several books, including *Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime*, *You're a Better Parent Than You Think* now in its twenty-fifth printing, *Back to the Family*, *Good Discipline*, *Great Teens* and his newest book, *Adoption: Choosing to Live It, Loving It*.

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.)

"You're a Better Parent Than You Think"

(6 CEU Session)

This six hour training is designed to enhance participants' understanding of how parents and those that work with children today are having their confidence, peace of mind, and authority undercut by a number of widespread myths that have been pushed upon them by contracting experts and the media. Victimized by these false notions, many people who work with children are plagued by groundless worry, guilt and frustration. This presentation is packed with humor and real-life examples. The participants will leave this presentation feeling emotionally upbeat and much more self-confident.

November 19, 2009

Katharine Leslie, Ph.D., CFLE

Katharine P. Leslie, Ph.D., CFLE, has a doctorate in developmental psychology, and certifications as a family life educator, trauma and loss in children specialist, and family mediator. Her areas of expertise include child development, parenting education, parent-child relationships, and abnormal socio-emotional development of abused/neglected children. In addition, Dr. Leslie is the mother of four adopted children and is a highly sought after national speaker presenting at over 30 conferences and training venues yearly. Agencies and organizations throughout the United States have utilized her consulting services regarding treatment practices for traumatized children, curricula and program development, and research and technical assistance. Dr. Leslie is the author of several publications including *When a Stranger Calls Your Mom: A child development and relationship perspective on why traumatized children think act, and feel the way they do*.

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.)

"Trauma, Attachment & Treatment: Imperative Knowledge and Skills for Effective Clinical and Parenting Practices"

(6 CEU Session)

Dr. Leslie will present information on early infant/childhood brain development and the impact of abuse and neglect on the brain, cognition, and socioemotional development. She will then discuss powerful therapeutic techniques that can remediate PTSD and access implicit memories of trauma and attachment models. Finally, she will explain how to create attachment friendly environments with sensible and essential parenting strategies that tame and prevent behavior and affective problems while decreasing family conflict.

November 20, 2009

Jon G. Allen, Ph.D.

Jon G. Allen holds the Helen Malsin Palley Chair in Mental Health Research and is Senior Staff Psychologist at the Meninger Clinic and a Professor in the Meninger Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine. A respected researcher and educator of both trauma survivors and mental health professionals, Dr. Allen also has co-authored and authored numerous publications on trauma-related problems and depression. Among his publications are: *authoring Coping with Trauma: Hope Through Understanding* and *Treating Complex Trauma in Attachment Relationships: Coping with Depression: From Catch 22 to Hope*; plus, co-authoring *Mentalizing in Clinical Practice*.

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

Challenges in Treating Attachment Trauma

(5 CEU Session)

This session will review the long-range impact of trauma in childhood attachment relationships, including discussion of posttraumatic stress-disorder, dissociative states, depression, and substance abuse. Clinical examples of adulthood outcomes will be included. "Mentalizing" (awareness of mental states in oneself and others) will be explained as well as a discussion of the ways in which attachment trauma impairs the development of mentalizing capacities and thus poses particular challenges for treatment. An explanation of how mentalizing is a core common factor in psychotherapy, regardless of treatment modality or theoretical approach will be offered. The distinctive features of a mentalization-based therapeutic approach with applications to traumatized adults will also be discussed. The session will conclude with a focus on the impact of treating traumatized patients on the therapist and the challenges of maintaining hope and promoting hope in patients.

November 20, 2009

Gregory C. Keck, Ph.D., LISW

Dr. Keck is an internationally known clinician, lecturer and author in attachment. He is the founder and director of the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio, which treats children and adolescents who have experienced developmental interruptions. The Center treats individuals and families who are experiencing problems in the areas of adoption and strives to support the adoptive family. Dr. Keck is certified as a Diplomat and Fellow by the American Board of Medical Psychotherapy. He has taught at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and Northeast Ohio University's College of Medicine. An adoptive parent, he is co-author of *Adopting the Hurt Child: Hope for Families with Special Needs Children and Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow* (Pinon Press), plus author of *Parenting Adopted Adolescents: Understanding and Appreciating Their Journey*.

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

Working with Adopted Adolescents and Their Families

(5 CEU Session)

This one day class will examine the issues that adoptive families may face as their child enters adolescence. A multitude of challenges may emerge as the adolescent begins to experience the separation and individuation that is a component of typical development. Adoption and/or early trauma complicate developmental transitions, and parents may feel unprepared to address what occurs. The class will explore not only adopted developmental dynamics but also the core issues associated with adoption.

Experiencing Oglebay

**Lodging:
(ADA compliant and a smoke-free facility)**

Wilson Lodge is located on the grounds of Oglebay Resort and Convention Center in Wheeling, West Virginia. Oglebay is a 1,500 acre year-round resort featuring a multitude of recreational facilities, excellent overnight accommodations and unparalleled natural beauty. The training will be held during Oglebay's extraordinary Winter Festival of Lights, one of America's largest light shows with over a million lights. There are also seven specialty shops scattered throughout Oglebay, all featuring unique gifts, wearables and collectibles. Also offered during winter months is an indoor swimming pool, a fitness center and depending on the weather, downhill and cross-country skiing, the Mansion Museum, Schrader Environmental Education Center, horse stables, and Schenk Lake. Oglebay is located on State Route 88, accessible from Interstate 70. Signs for the park are posted along all major routes, and signs for Wilson Lodge are located within the park. Additional information may be found at www.oglebay-resort.com.

A limited number of rooms at Wilson Lodge have been reserved for Wednesday, November 18th and Thursday, November 19th at discounted rates beginning @ \$105.00 plus tax. Call (304) 243-4090 locally or (800) 624-6988 to make your reservations. Please identify yourself with this conference to receive the discounted rate.

November 19, 2009

Festival of Lights

In 1985 a holiday tradition began at Oglebay and soon spread throughout the city of Wheeling. That tradition is the Winter Festival of Lights/City of Lights celebration. The first year, displays and landscape lighting covered 125 acres over a three-mile drive throughout the resort. Since then the show has grown into one of the nation's largest, covering more than three hundred acres over a six-mile drive throughout the resort. The Winter Festival of Lights has been listed on the American Bus Association's Top International Events, was named as a top 100 event by EventCrazy.com and was recently listed as one of the top 200 events in the country by Discover America. The Festival of Lights was also featured on the Travel Channel's Extreme Christmas Celebrations.

Festival of Lights:

Thursday, November 19th (8:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.)

Enjoy Oglebay's Festival of Lights Trolley Ride

Cost: \$5.00 per person

November 19, 2009

Dinner/Training with

Gregory C. Keck, Ph.D., LISW

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Dinner at Oglebay:

Wilson Lodge

\$39.00 per person

"Unique Issues of Adoptive Families"

(1 CEU Session)

Internationally known clinician, lecturer and author will address the unique issues that adopted adolescents and their families may experience. Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to: identify specific issues that are relevant for parents and adopted adolescents, and help families deal with the separation and individuation processes that occur in adolescence.