

## Amendments to the Pennsylvania Adoption Act have...

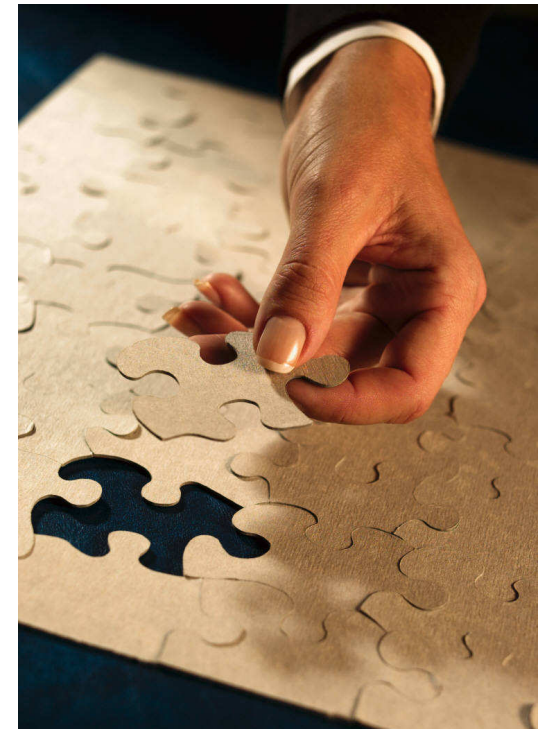
- Expanded who can search
- Expanded who can be the subject of a search
- Improved access to adoption information



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# Are You Searching?

Important Information for  
Those Impacted by  
Adoption



*The truth is almost always  
easier to deal with than the  
unknown. -Adoptee*



*“I am grateful every day that my daughter found both her birth father and me four years ago. This would never have happened if it weren’t for our Authorized Representative.”*  
– Birth Mother

*“The whole process of finding my birth mother after nearly 42 years of life was pretty awesome. Deciding to find her with the help of your office was one of the best things I’ve ever done.”*  
– Adoptee

## Who\*

The following people can search or be the subject of a search:

- Adopted Individuals
- Birth Parents and Siblings
- Certain Family Members

## What\*

You can request the following:

- Non-Identifying Information
- Identifying Information
- Contact

## Why\*

Many people will search to find the following:

- Medical Information
- Ethnicity
- Complete the story

## When\*

You can begin a search when:

- The time is right for you.
- You are able to meet eligibility requirements. – See SWAN PA Adoption Search Guidelines.

## Where\*

You can start your search at the following:

- The Pennsylvania county court that finalized the adoption
- The agency that coordinated the adoption
- Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Legal Services Initiative (LSI) Warmline
- Pennsylvania Adoption Information Registry (PAIR)

## What is an Authorized Representative?

An authorized representative is a specially trained individual who will assist you in your search. This representative is trained in search techniques as well as reunion support. They will insure that a respectful, confidential search is conducted.

## Confidentiality

The search process is designed to ensure that all parties have control over their confidential identifying information. Once located, individuals choose to agree to the release of their identifying information.

## \*For More Information and Specific Details

- Please visit the SWAN PA Adoption Search Guidelines:  
<http://www.diakon-swan.org/swan/documents/item/132/>
- For court and agency contact information, please contact the SWAN LSI Warmline at:  
[lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org](mailto:lsiwarmline@diakon-swan.org), 1-888-793-2512 ext. 5376
- For more information about PAIR, please visit [www.adoptpkids.org](http://www.adoptpkids.org) or call 1-800-227-0225