



Request for Intercountry Adoption Tracing - by ISS Australia

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding your interest in tracing and establishing contact with family overseas. We will be pleased to assist you in the searching process and would appreciate if you provided as much identifying information as possible. Please find enclosed the application form which you will need to complete and return along with your identification and any other information you may have.

Our Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services and is provided free for intercountry adoptees and their families, those who have had their adoption facilitated by an Australian Central Authority, as well as those adopted through expatriate adoption arrangements.

International Social Service (ISS) Australia is an independent, national not-for-profit organisation with over 50 years' experience defending children and connecting families across the world. ISS Australia provides professional social work and legal services to families and children separated by international borders, with an emphasis on the best interests and rights of children. See <http://www.iss.org.au/> for more information.

ISS Australia is the independent Australian arm of the global International Social Service network, with members in over 120 countries. Our membership to the ISS international network gives us the unique capacity to refer cases to our trained and experienced ISS colleagues operating overseas. Please be assured these workers understand the complexity involved with intercountry adoption and will make any enquiries discreetly and in a sensitive manner.

Some of the most common questions asked relate to how long the search will take and how successful we are in locating family members overseas. The success of a search will be influenced by how much information is contained within the adoption records, the circumstances regarding the adopted person's conception and birth, as well as the era in which the adoption occurred. These issues vary greatly between countries and each request will be different due to its own unique circumstance.

Our caseworkers can assist you with obtaining any adoption records you are eligible for in Australia which may be held by the Central Authority who organised the adoption, however please note this can be a lengthy process and these requests can take up to a few months to process. It is important to obtain these documents as they may contain information such as your birth family's name and last known location.

Please also provide photocopies of any other adoption documents you may already have as well as details of any enquiries previously made or any other information you believe may be helpful with the search.

We emphasise that whilst every attempt will be made, we cannot guarantee success either in locating the person concerned, or in mediation of a satisfactory relationship with that person. Sadly,

the reality is there are times where it is not possible to trace family members overseas who have been involved in intercountry adoption. It is also important to remember that even if tracing is successful, and the family member is located, they may be unwilling to engage in contact, due to the nature of the pregnancy or decision to place the child for adoption. Many birth families have continued to keep the adoption a secret and may be afraid of what others will think of them if their secret is revealed.

Although this can be very challenging to understand and accept, it is important to remember this is likely due to that person's personal circumstances, rather than rejection of the adopted person who they have not had the opportunity to come to know.

Information and support will be provided to you prior to the search being initiated in order to explore these issues further so that you are able to make an informed decision about your expectations and readiness to search.

Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service commits to respectfully upholding the rights of all parties. ISS Australia supports the principles of the Federal Privacy Act 2000 (for further information on ISS Australia's Privacy Policy please see <http://www.iss.org.au/privacy-policy/>) As such we cannot release personal information without consent, or disclose how we have located the person concerned unless that information is publicly available.

If you would like more information about ISS Australia's Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service, please do not hesitate to contact us on 1300 657 843 or ica@iss.org.au.

Please complete this form electronically or handwritten and return it via email or post to the ISS Australia worker who sent you the form, alternatively email it to ica@iss.org.au or post to ISS Australia, NSW Office, Level 1, 518 Kent St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

Application for Intercountry Adoption Reunification and Tracing Service

Please fill in as much of the information below that is known to you. This background is often essential for the location of correct files/certificates. Where information is not known, please write 'unknown'.

Please note all information is treated as confidential. If contact is made with the family member overseas, that person's address and details can only be released with their permission.

Person making this application:

- Adopted Person
- Adoptive Parent (for child under 18 years of age)

SECTION A: ADOPTED PERSONS DETAILS

Full Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other):	
Address:	
Phone (Home):	Mobile:
Email:	
Preferred method of contact:	
Date of Birth:	Country of Birth:
Date of arrival in Australia:	
Name and Address of Agency which facilitated the adoption overseas:	
Date adoption was finalised:	
Name of the Court which finalised the adoption:	
Other organisations involved in the adoption (e.g. Church, Hospital, Medical Practitioner, Police Station, Orphanage):	

SECTION B: ADOPTED PERSON'S BIRTH DETAILS

Name at Birth:
ID Number (if applicable):
Place of Birth (e.g. Name of hospital/ town):
Name of Mother:
Mother's ID Number (if applicable):
Date of Birth:
Last known Address:
Name of Father:
Father's ID Number (if applicable):
Date of Birth:
Last known Address:
Other Extended Family Members/ Siblings (if known):

SECTION C: ADOPTIVE PARENTS DETAILS

(N.B.– only complete Section C if you are making this application on behalf of your adopted child)

Name/s:	
Address:	
Phone (Home):	Mobile:
Email:	
Preferred method of contact:	
Is your child aware you are making this application on their behalf?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

SECTION D: INFORMATION OF THE PERSON YOU ARE SEEKING

Current Full Name of person/s being traced (underline family name):
Other Names by which they have been known (e.g. maiden/ married name):
Last known Address:

The person being sought is your:

- mother father
- brother sister
- other (please specify relationship)

SECTION E: OUTCOME OF OTHER ENQUIRIES

Have you received your adoption records from your State/ Territory Central Authority (State Government Department) in Australia?

- Yes No

Have you received your adoption records from the Country of Origin Agency who facilitated your adoption?

- Yes No

Have you made enquiries through other organisations or private investigators? If so which ones? Please list and provide outcome of enquiries.

Do you agree to us approaching these organisations?

- Yes No

Have you contacted any friends or relatives who might be able to give information?

- Yes No

If so, when and what was the outcome?

How did you hear about our Service?

Please attach the following documents:

- Proof of Identity (birth certificate, driver's license or passport, marriage certificate if change of name)
- Adoption records from State Central Authority (if held)
- Adoption records from Country of Origin (if held)
- In the event you would like another person to liaise with ISS Australia on your behalf, please attach a signed letter of authority with this person's details along with your application

END OF APPLICATION