



Search Roadmap

A Step by Step Search Guide

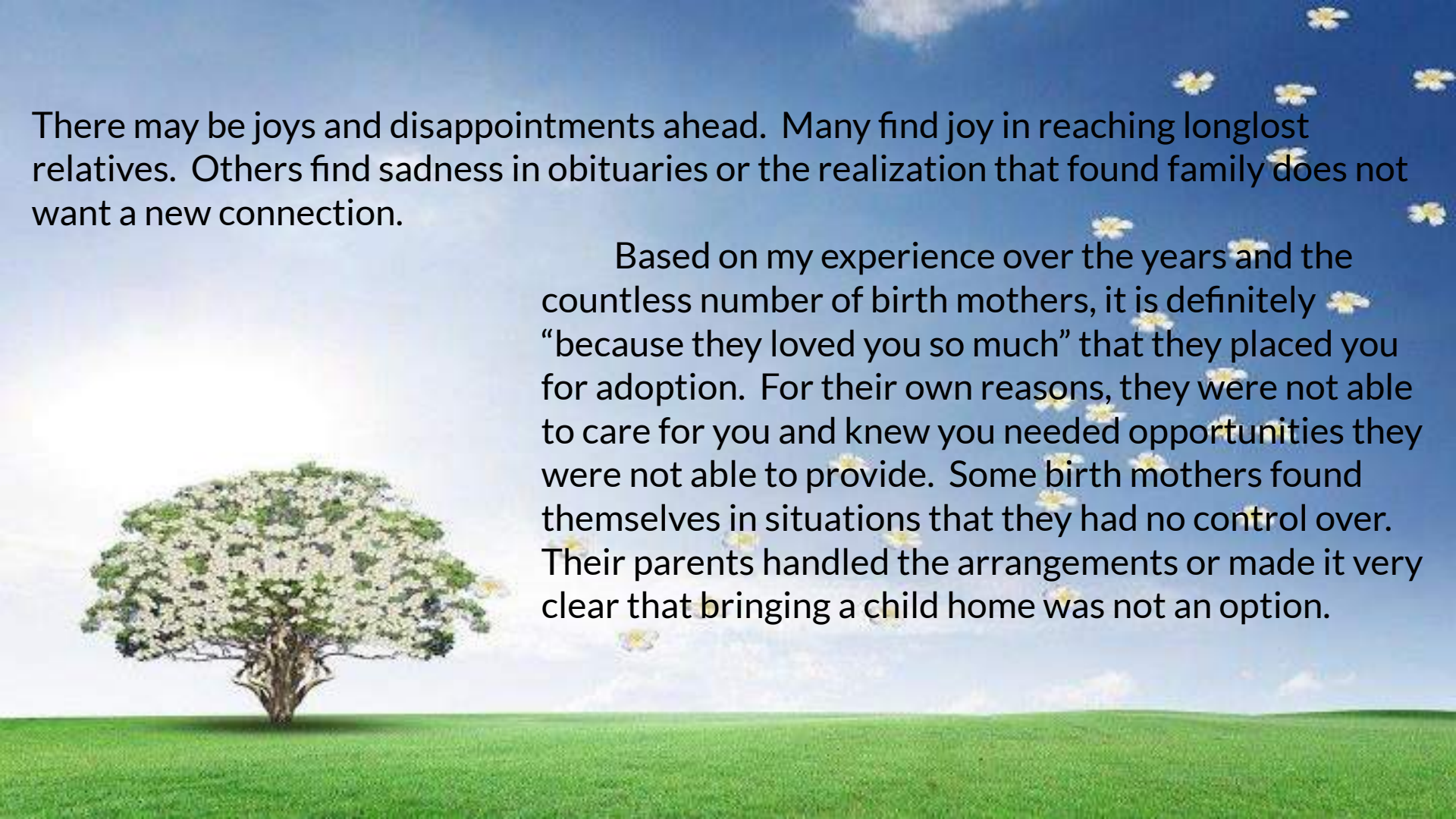
TheAdoptionSearchConnection.com

Welcome to your Search Journey

We are glad you are here. You have made the decision to begin a Journey. A lifetime of questions may be answered at your journey's end. You are an adoptee. You love your family and they love you, however, you are still an adoptee. You have a history separate from them. Empty spots. You desire to know "the rest of the story."

In the coming days and weeks, you will process the information gathered and received. The Journey you are embarking on may be one you have longed for your entire life. The chance to answer the lifelong questions many adoptees have. "Who am I? Where did I come from? Who do I look like? Why am I good at art when no one around me is? Where did the red hair come from? Is anyone looking for me?"

The biggest question you ask may be Why. Why was I placed for adoption? Who are my birth parents? Where are they or what are they like? Do I have any siblings?

A large, leafy tree stands on a green field under a blue sky with white clouds and falling daisies.

There may be joys and disappointments ahead. Many find joy in reaching longlost relatives. Others find sadness in obituaries or the realization that found family does not want a new connection.

Based on my experience over the years and the countless number of birth mothers, it is definitely “because they loved you so much” that they placed you for adoption. For their own reasons, they were not able to care for you and knew you needed opportunities they were not able to provide. Some birth mothers found themselves in situations that they had no control over. Their parents handled the arrangements or made it very clear that bringing a child home was not an option.

The Adoption Connection

Below are two options for joining up with other adoptees who understand exactly what you may be going through and are ready to provide support.

Click the links below for more information.

The Adoption Search Connection Membership

We are a supportive and safe community of adoptees. Here you will find monthly content regarding search and reunion issues is presented. This is in greater depth than the FB group. There is a small monthly membership fee.

Adoptee Search and Reunion Support Community on Facebook

A private and active group of adoptees who share their experiences and frustrations and joys in their reunion journey.
This is a free group on Facebook.

Itinerary

About Me



My name is Laura Long and I am a reunited adoptee. My own search journey began over 25 years ago and I have experienced a wonderful reunion with my birth family.

With over 22 years of helping adoptees and families, my experience has been both rewarding and enlightening. There are so many heartwarming stories about the closure a reunion provides to all involved.

My background in social work helps me to work with all sides in a supportive and empathetic manner.

The goal is to work out a resolution agreeable to both sides. There are no guarantees in any search but we give everyone the compassion and respect of their decision.

Just remember that whatever happens, you will have answered the question of “What will I find if I search?”

Our purpose here is not to delve into the reasons “why or why not?”. Those questions have been pondered by many and there are other resources that can help you explore those questions.

The following pages provide a roadmap to guide you in your journey. Reach out to me if you get stuck. You receive four coaching calls in the first three months.

Good luck.

So let's begin!



Search Journey Itinerary

1. Introduction
2. Pre-journey Research - Membership and Facebook Group
3. About Me - My personal introduction and story
4. Viewing the Map- Information and Review
5. Packing the Suitcase - Gathering Information
6. Travel Conditions - Be Prepared
7. Here We Go- Filling Out the Forms
8. Possible Roadblocks Ahead- Before We Begin
9. Database Hints - Tips - Tricks - Ways to Increase Postive Results
10. Checking Off the Miles- Database Options

Search Journey Itinerary

9. Database Stops - Main Database Sites

10. Rest Stop - Assessment

11. Back on the Road- Deeper Level Research

12. Right on the Way- Missouri Based Databases

13. Double Checking the Map- Verification and Contact Prep

14. Almost There- Making Contact

15. Sending up a Flare - Letter Templates

16. Are We There Yet?- Waiting for a Response

17. You Have Arrived- Connections Made

Viewing the Map- Getting Started

Begin by printing out the [Information Fact Sheet](#). Review the Child History section to double check what information you have and what you still need to request.

Of those items possibly available to you, the most important are the Original Birth Certificate (OBC) of the adoptee and the Social History of the birth mother.

Original Birth Certificate

The OBC will be filed with Vital Records in the state of birth.

The Social History

The Social History will be filed with the agency involved such as DFS or Catholic Charities as well as the court or state that processed the adoption.

Itinerary

Information Fact
Sheet

Packing the Suitcase - Gathering Information

The **Original Birth Certificate** - held by Vital Records in the state of the adoptee's birth.

If allowed, request the original birth certificate from the state Vital Record agency. . The OBC will be the certificate created when the child was born and will list the birth mother's name and usually her age and where she was from. We are finding that most of the time, the birth father's name is not on the OBC.

When there is an adoption, a new "amended" birth certificate is created with the adoptive parent names and information on it. There is no indication on this certificate that there was an adoption. This is the adoptee's legal birth certificate as the OBC is no longer valid or recognized.

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Packing the Suitcase – Gathering Information

A **Social History** is also called the Identifying Information. This is the information from the interview the worker took from the birth mother at the time of placement.

This information is a detailed account of the birth mother, her background and her family information. It may or may not include the same information on the birth father. Some states allow the release of the identifying information and some states only allow the release of the basic information about the birth parents but without the actual identifying information. This is the Non-Identifying information.

Non-identifying information refers to the Social History about the birth mother but with the identifying items removed.

Itinerary

Packing the Suitcase - Gathering Information



Each state has individual laws regarding the original birth certificate and the adoption record held by the agency or court which finalized the adoption.

Some states hold the records at the county level with the court and some on the state level in a central repository for the whole state. Here is a link to check out your states laws.

State Laws

Based on the laws in your state, review what information is available to be released to you. The amount and type of information allowed to be released may be an indicator of the success of your journey.

Itinerary

Travel Conditions - Be Prepared

Some birth families have been anxiously waiting for the phone to ring and the “long lost” relative to finally be found. There are occasions when the birth family is so excited that the adoptee or their descendants are the ones who are needing to take it slow and a step back.

Realize that despite the best efforts, sometimes there simply isn't enough verifiable information to make a positive match to a birth family.

It is good to understand that not every family found is as excited about the “long lost” relative idea as you are. Just as some people do not really care about extended family that they do know, it's possible that the family you find may not be interested in someone they have never met or didn't even know existed.

[Itinerary](#)

Here We Go-Filling Out the Information Fact Sheet

Once you have gathered the documents available to you (OBC and ID/Non-ID info), begin to fill out the [Information Fact Sheet](#). This helps to see how much info you already know and what you might be able to add through the research found in the next steps.

Don't worry about all the empty blanks. You may be surprised how quickly you can add new information. You may also be surprised how little info you may need to "solve" the mystery and complete the journey.

Databases are added and tied together at an amazing pace these days. Information that was not found or available even a year ago is now found. If you search for some piece of information and find nothing, go back at a later time and try again. Some new keyword or database will pop up and will contain the tidbit of info you needed to open the road ahead.

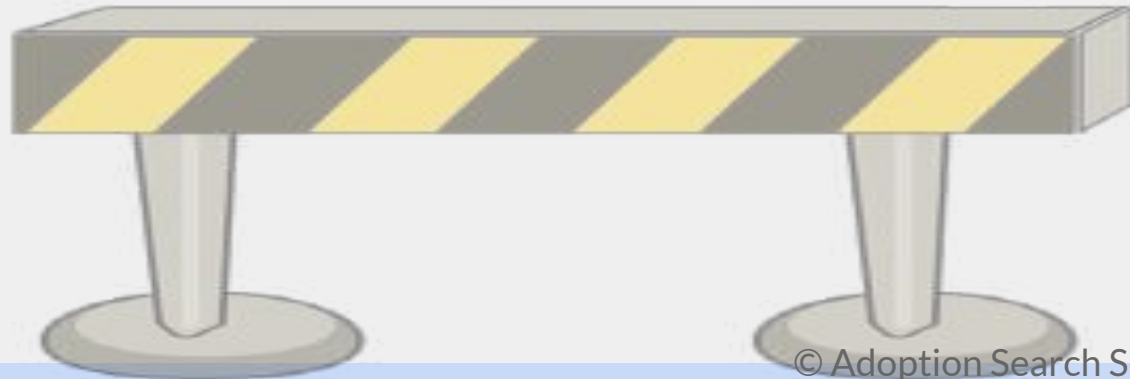
Itinerary

Possible Roadblock Ahead- Before We Begin

The general approach is to go back in time to verify a name and a place in the past before we can move forward in time to find them in the current day.

[Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) is the best place to begin. The trick with Ancestry and other databases is to put in a little information to get a large list of possible matches and then filter the information known to narrow down the matches.

The next few slides describe some searching strategies and screenshots of pages as examples.



Itinerary

Click on
Search
Then select
All Categories

The screenshot shows the AncestryLibrary website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Search, Message Boards, Learning Center, Charts and Forms, and New Collections. A yellow arrow points to the 'Search' button. Below the navigation bar, a dropdown menu is open, listing the following categories: All Categories, Census & Voter Lists, Birth, Marriage & Death, Military, Immigration & Travel, and Card Catalog. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'Start searching billions of records and discover your family's story.' and a green 'Begin Searching' button. To the right, there's a section titled 'Receive Records at Home' with a form to 'Send Your Find Home!' and a 'Send document' button. Below this, there's a 'Five Minute Find: Sending Documents Home From the Library' section with a 'View Video' link. At the bottom, there are four search category buttons: SEARCH CENSUS, SEARCH VITALS, SEARCH MILITARY, and SEARCH IMMIGRATION, each with a corresponding historical image.

Library.com

Home Search Message Boards Learning Center Charts and Forms New Collections

Mid Continent Publ...

Start searching billions of records and discover your family's story.

Begin Searching

Receive Records at Home

Send Your Find Home!

Enter your email address and we will send you a link to your personalized Discovery Page where you can view and download all of the great finds you make while here.

Send document

We value your privacy. Read our Privacy Statement

U.S. Public Records

Source: Ancestry.com
UT, USA: Ancestry
Original date: 1
Records, and 6

Discovery:
The U.S. Public
all 50 states in

Five Minute Find: Sending Documents Home From the Library

View Video

SEARCH CENSUS

SEARCH VITALS

SEARCH MILITARY

SEARCH IMMIGRATION

Database Stops - Ancestry.com

Ancestry



Some info free, most libraries have access for free, independent subscription option.

Put in the name of your birth mother and year of birth +/- 2. You can also include a state of residence. If you get too many results, add another field of information that is known or suspected. Ancestry has a great cross reference service that may provide links to her on census records and even the Social Security Death Index.

Census records are public record and online with the 1940 Census the most recent available.

Is she listed with her parents? What years do you find her? If you cannot find her on a census she should be listed on, click on a parent or sibling name you do find. This may take you to another year or information option that will help you find more on the family and their whereabouts over time. Do you have too many matches with the same name, age and geographic location? Try looking at each of their education levels, occupation, parents and siblings occupations. The goal is to remove the ones you know do not match for one reason or another.

Itinerary

Browser tabs: Inbox - blongc@gmail.com, Inbox - createhojart@gmail.com, Ancestry Library Edition | Mid..., Search, screenshot on computer - Google Chrome

Address bar: ancestrylibrary.com/search/

Navigation: Home, Search, Message Boards, Learning Center, Charts and Forms, New Collections

MID CONTINENT PUBLI...

Search

First & Middle Name(s)


Last Name

Place your ancestor might have lived

Birth Year

Search [Show more options](#)

Explore by Location



Special Collections [+ Card Catalog](#)

Historical Records

Birth, Marriage & Death
Birth, Baptism & Christening
Marriage & Divorce
Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries

Census & Voter Lists
U.S. Federal Census Collection
UK Census Collection
Canadian Census Collection
[More...](#)

Immigration & Travel
Passenger Lists
Citizenship & Naturalization Records
Border Crossings & Passports
[More...](#)

Military
Draft, Enlistment and Service
Casualties

Database Hints - Tips - Tricks 1

Year of birth and listed age of a person

A common factor that prevents the listing of all the matches is the person's age. Even when you are certain of a person's year of birth, it is best to use the suspected year of birth and "+/- 2 or +/- 5" year option. With a census record, the age listed is based on the age of the person as of January 1 of that year or the actual date the information was gathered by the census taker. In this case, the birthday for that year may not have occurred yet so you it will still be a year behind. It is also known that the census takers would not verify the information being told by the persons providing the information.

ancestrylibrary.com/search/

ancestrylibrary Home Search Message Boards Learning Center Charts and Forms New Collections MID CONTINENT PUBLI...

Search

First & Middle Name(s)
penny
☐ Exact...

Last Name
smith
☐ Exact...

Place your ancestor might have lived
Missouri, USA
☐ Exact to...

Birth Year
1925
☒ +/- 2 yrs
☒ Exact to...

- ☐ this year
- ☐ +/- 1 year
- ☒ +/- 2 years
- ☐ +/- 5 years
- ☐ +/- 10 years

Search Show more options v

Explore by Location

Special Collections

[+ Card Catalog](#)

- Historical Records
- Birth, Marriage & Death**
 - Birth, Baptism & Christening
 - Marriage & Divorce
 - Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries
- Census & Voter Lists**
 - U.S. Federal Census Collection
 - UK Census Collection
 - Canadian Census Collection
 - More...
- Immigration & Travel**
 - Passenger Lists
 - Citizenship & Naturalization Records
 - Border Crossings & Passports
 - More...
- Military**
 - Draft, Enlistment and Service
 - Casualties

Database Hints - Tips - Tricks 2

Databases use information that has been uploaded and it's not always accurate. If the information you know to be true doesn't match exactly what is listed in the database, you will not find a match.

For example, if your information shows someone living in Clay County but the database has the person listed in the neighboring Jackson County, the results will not show them. When searching, either the county field blank. Another option is to put in the county and select the variable "neighboring counties" to ensure covering a wider area. If nothing still seems to come up, remove the county option all together and cover the whole state. This ensures widening the scope to give more possible results.

[Itinerary](#)

Browser tabs: Inbox - itlongo@gmail.com, Inbox - createhouseat@gmail.com, Ancestry Library Edition | Mid, Search, screenshot on computer - Google, +

Address bar: ancestrylibrary.com/search/

Navigation: Home, Search, Message Boards, Learning Center, Charts and Forms, New Collections, MID CONTINENT PUBLI...

Search

First & Middle Name(s)

☐ Exact...

Last Name

☐ Exact...

Place your ancestor might have lived

☒ Exact to county & adjacent counties

Birth Year

☒ +/- 2 yrs

Special Collections [+ Card Catalog](#)

Historical Records

Birth, Marriage & Death
Birth, Baptism & Christening
Marriage & Divorce
Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries

Census & Voter Lists
U.S. Federal Census Collection
UK Census Collection
Canadian Census Collection
More...

Immigration & Travel
Passenger Lists
Citizenship & Naturalization Records
Border Crossings & Passports
More...

Military
Draft, Enlistment and Service
Casualties

☒ Exact to...

☐ This place

☒ County and adjacent counties

☐ State

☐ State and adjacent states

☐ Country

[About these settings](#)

Map showing locations in the Midcontinent region (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Quebec, Ontario).

© Adoption Search Services.com

Database Hints – Tips – Tricks 3

Family connections

If you can find information on a parent or sibling that leads to their death information, this gives you a lead for finding an obituary or burial notice. An obituary may list the birth mother with an updated surname and location. If the other siblings are listed but she is not, this may mean she is already deceased. This helps with a time line of her life/death.

Browser tabs: Inbox - kclongod@gmail, Inbox - createdforuatt, Search Roadmap - Go, Facebook, Research Databases, Betty Smith - Ancestry.

ancestrylibrary.com/search/?...&event=jackson-missouri-usa_1475&birth=1925&birth_x=2-0-0&event_x=1-0-0&name_x...

ancestryLibrary Home Search Message B Learning Center Charts and Forms New Collections MID CONTINENT PUBLI...

All results for Betty Smith

Search Filters

betty
smith
Born: 1925
Any: Jackson, Missouri, U...

Exact, sounds like and similar

Edit Search | New Search | **Update**

Filter by

All Categories

> Census & Voter Lists	61
> Birth, Marriage & Death	129
> Military	3
> Immigration & Emigration	2
> Directories & Member Lists	87

319 results

Census & Voter Lists 61

1930 United States Federal Census	31
1940 United States Federal Census	28
Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855-1925	2

See all 61 results...

Birth, Marriage & Death 129

U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1860s-current	40
U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007	37
Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records, 1805-2002	33
U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current	23
U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014	10

See all 129 results...

Military 3

Database Hints – Tips – Tricks 4

Parent and guardians -

If a grandparent was raising their grandchild, the grandchild may be listed as son or daughter rather than grandson and granddaughter. It has also been reported that if the family was not at a residence when the census worker came by, they would obtain the information from a neighbor which is obviously unreliable. I have also had a case where I was looking for a Louise “daughter” and the census listed her as Louis “son.”

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Remember-

The idea is to narrow or widen the search fields used to help find results. It is also a good idea to take the information you have obtained with a grain of salt. It may or may not be accurate from the beginning. Information gathering in the past was not as verified for accuracy as they are today.

Checking Off the Miles – Database Stops

You have gathered the basic information from the resources available to you. Now it is time to validate that information through research. The websites and resources listed on the following slides are the best places to begin.

Your **local library** may have many of these databases available online that are accessible with your library card number. Some that usually require a subscription are available online through your library membership. In some cases, you may have to physically go to the library and use their computer for access to some of the databases.

Database Stops – Additional Resources

Google

This is a great resource as it may “find” a reference to the person you are looking for in an old newspaper article, book, or even a church bulletin that has been placed online. Type the person’s name in quotation marks and see what results you get. If there are too many, include a city or state, a school they may have attended, or military branch they were in.



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<https://www.findagrave.com/>

Free to search and many times cross referenced on Ancestry.com also

This resource is searchable by name, by cemetery, and by geographic location. If you know a surname, you may be able to find death info on a relative that provides a death date to locate an obituary. Funeral homes may have posted an obituary on their websites but nothing in the local paper as many now charge a fee to publish.

Visit your local library in person or online.

Libraries usually have an list of available genealogy and information databases that you can use at the library and online with your library card. This will save you lots of money on subscription fees. Some versions of the databases are different based on a library or individual subscriptions. Check into that if you feel you are missing potential information. It may be beneficial to pay for a month or two of a certain database.

Typical databases available through your library membership:

Ancestry.com Libraries usually have a free usable version on their computers

Newsbank:
America's Obituaries and Death Notices

Newspaperarchive.com

Newspapers.com

Fold3.com - Military information database



Database Stops - Additional Resources

[Newspapers.com - Historical
Newspapers from 1700s-2000s](#)

www.newspaperarchive.com

Here are some other options for your search. Some information is free and some free through the library. Both have an independent membership option

You can search by name, by location, and by specific newspaper. Sometimes, putting the name in the search bar in quotation marks will provide results. Sometimes you have to go to the specific newspaper, the specific edition and look the page by page for the obit or article you think may be there. Articles regarding a death by accident are sometimes easier to find than an obituary. In recent times, more and more people are not publishing an obituary.

Rest Stop – Assessment and Review

Time for a rest stop and an assessment of the information you have found so far.

Have you found the information you were hoping for? Did you find the birth parent or their family? Do you have an updated name and birthparent's location?

If they are deceased, have you found a living relative?

What additional information do you need on your Information Fact Sheet?

If you have found the information and are ready to make first contact with the birth parent or their family, you may be ready to take a Short Cut. If so, [click here to go to the beginning of the Contact process.](#)

If you are still searching and the databases provided before have not provided enough information, the following database and investigative suggestions may be helpful.

[Itinerary](#)

Back on the Road- Deeper Level Research

[Genealogy.com](https://www.genealogy.com)

[USGenWeb Project -
Always Free](https://www.usgenweb.org)

[Message Boards at Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com/messageboards)

Additional Databases-

Farther down the
information trail

Itinerary



Additional Databases



School Yearbooks

Divorce Filings - Filed in Local Paper

Indexes for marriage and death usually found on a county or state level.

City directories/phone books from the cities family members most likely lived . If you can find them listed, look in prior and future directories to see if you can create a timeline of when they were and were not in that location. Once they stop being listed, this may be an indicator of marriage or moving. If you believe they may have married, look in a future directory based on the residence listing. If they married and remained in the same household, the listing would now show a married surname.

Genealogy societies or historical societies on a county or city level can help you learn where family members were born, lived and died.

DNA Testing - Ancestry.com is recommended as the top choice for the purposes of finding relatives. This is simply because profile matches on this registry are more likely to have a family tree included in their profile. This gives you actual people to try to match to your birth family.

Missouri based Databases

A map of the state of Missouri, showing its county boundaries. The map is colored in shades of orange and yellow, with the state's outline clearly visible against a darker background.

Missouri Digital Heritage
Birth pre-1910
and Death Index 1910-1970

Missouri Case.net

Jackson County
Missouri Marriage
Index

Double Checking the Map - Verification

You think you have found the information you are looking for. Now it is time to review it and determine what you can do to verify you have found the correct person or family.

Do you have DNA testing? Have you been able to overlap a grandparent or great grandparent to the family tree of the person you believe is your birth family?

How certain are you this is correct? Does the information match beyond a reasonable doubt?

Is the birth parent still living? If so, where? Do you have an address or contact info? Have you looked for them on Facebook or Google to verify employment or address?

Are you ready to make contact? How do you plan to make contact? A letter? Phone call?

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Almost There - Making Contact

There are many ways to make contact. You might choose a letter, a phone call, Facebook message, or a knock at the door.

What I have found in the years of experience is that any contact comes out of the blue. Even those persons who have been anxiously waiting or even looking themselves are not expecting it.

If a birth parent is alive, it is recommended to contact them first and attempt to receive a response before going around them to other family members or your half siblings. This provides them the courtesy especially if they have not told anyone. If they do not want anyone else to know and you contact a family member before them, you may not receive a warm welcome. There are many cases where the birth parent is very willing to connect with an adoptee but they are not ready to tell their extended family. This provides them that courtesy. This is a better foundation of a relationship built on mutual respect.

Contact By Letter - Recommended

Mailing Options Explained Pros - Cons



A letter is the recommended method when contacting a birth parent. It allows the person who receives the letter, to be introduced to the idea of your existence and have time to gather their wits before responding. This gives them a sense of respect and control. They may want to respond when they have had time to think things through and be emotionally ready for that next step. It may take two letters to generate a response as you family member takes time to digest the idea of being contacted, and process how they are going to inform their family, etc.

A letter to extended family if the birth parent is deceased is also okay as it provides validation of what you are saying especially if you able to provide proof of some sort.

[Itinerary](#)

Templates of Letters of Inquiry –Making Contact

Templates of the suggested “letters of inquiry” are available here. You can modify and personalize them as you wish. The purpose of the letter is to introduce yourself, explain how you came to contact them, and your purpose for searching. This can be simply to let them know you are okay and to say Thank You for the decision they made so many years ago. It is reassuring them that you are not “out” for anything other than the chance to know them and offer them to be in your life.

[Letter Templates](#)

It is suggested to include a few pictures of the adoptee as a baby or young person and a current picture. A copy of the original birth certificate or social history is helpful if verification and validation may be necessary. This can also be offered as a follow up rather than in the original letter.

A successful approach is to use the terms of “genealogy search’ or “family search” rather than the terms “adoption” or “birth parent.” There is still a wariness of hearing about an adoption as folks still worry about scams, inheritance claims, secrecy and family scandal.

[Itinerary](#)

In sending a letter, you have the options of sending it **regular mail**, by **delivery confirmation** or with a required **signature card**.

Regular Mail

The letter is delivered as usual. Inexpensive option if you are fairly certain the address is correct. No guarantee delivered or received.

Delivery confirmation

Will let you know it has been delivered and no one has to be at the residence when it is dropped off. A little higher in price to send.

A signature card

Requires that someone is at home to sign or they receive a notice to go to the post office to retrieve it. It is very common that folks do not go pick it up and so it is returned to the sender undelivered and unread.

Letter Templates

If you are the adoptee:

Birthmother
Letter
Template

Birthfather
Letter
Template

Adoptee
Letter to
Lineal
Descendant
of deceased
birth parent

If you are the
Lineal Descendent of the
Adoptee:

Lineal
Descendent of
Adoptee letter to
the Adoptee's
Birth Parent

Lineal Descendent
of Adoptee letter to
Lineal Descendant
of deceased birth
parent

Contact by Phone or Other Method

A phone call as first contact to the actual birth parent may be received as a scam call, or you may find them on their way out the door, or with a house full of guests. It usually is not as well received as they have not had time to emotionally prepare for the incredible reality of hearing your voice and your presence in their lives. A phone call is great as a second step or if you have not received a response to your letter(s) despite knowing they have received them.

A phone call to extended family if the birth parent is deceased or has not been found yet may be acceptable especially if you are still seeking validation of the death or whereabouts of the birthparent.



[Itinerary](#)

Are We There Yet? - Waiting For a Response

Waiting for a response is one of the hardest things. You are so anxious and excited. You have been thinking about this for SO long. What will their response be? Will they be glad to hear from me? Will they believe me? One thing to consider is that this is a new and surprising development for them. Think about how long it took you the courage to make the decision to search.

Even those birth parents who are anxiously awaiting a connection and to be reassured that the decision they made so many years ago was a good one, are affected by this new contact and may need time to adjust.

[Itinerary](#)

Waiting for a response – What is taking so long?

Now that you have contacted a birth parent, their “clock” is just now starting. It may take them some time to come around to the idea of being contacted, to reflect on the reality of the adoptee’s existence and that they are now a grown person out there. It is very common for a birth mother to view the birth and adoption as a traumatic event that happened to THEM a long time ago. They have spent years trying to avoid the idea or that it even happened.

Many birth parents were not allowed to process the idea of placing a child for adoption and to grieve the loss. It was a traumatic event and not working through it emotionally leaves a scar. To bring it up now is as if it happened yesterday with all the feelings and emotions they have avoided since the adoption.

Itinerary

You Have Arrived - Connections Made

The day has come that you have solved the mystery. You may have made a connection with the birth parent or the birth family. There may be no living family left to contact and you are still left with questions. There is no way to know the outcome of the journey until you begin by taking that first step.

The hope in every search is to make a warm and welcome connection with the birth family and to fill in the answers to the life long questions.

[Itinerary](#)

The Adoption Connection

Where do we go from here?

What is your reunion story? How did it go? What are your feelings on the outcome?

Is it what you expected and hoped for? What could have been done differently?

Below are two options for joining up with other adoptees who understand exactly what you may be going through and are ready to provide support.

Click the links below for more information.

The Adoption Search Connection Membership

We are a supportive and safe community of adoptees. Monthly content regarding search and reunion issues is presented. This is in greater depth than the FB group. There is a small monthly membership fee.

Adoptee Search and Reunion Support Community on Facebook

A private and active group of adoptees who share their experiences and frustrations and joys in their reunion journey.

This is a free group on Facebook.

Itinerary