Michigan's
Adult Adoptee
Birth Family
Adoptive Parent
Support Group
List

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Please note: This list does not represent an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services of any company, organization, or group listed; or their services, ideology, treatment, or support practices. Individuals are encouraged to fully investigate to determine what is most appropriate for their individual needs.

Group Name and Address:

Hands Across the Water
781 Avis Drive, Ste. 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
(734) 477-0135
www.hatw.org

Adoption Insight
Kalamazoo Birthparents Support Group
PO Box 2183
Portage, MI 49081
Carol Gray
(269) 324-9987
cgraybmom@comcast.net

Peace with the Past
Meets at the Macomb Library
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
Jeff and Sue Lyjinen
(586) 855-6650
Lyjinen_J@yahoo.com
Sue Stapleton
(248) 830-6966
Sues3296@att.net

People Impacted by Adoption Birthparent Support Group
CSS Washtenaw
4925 Packard Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Elly Falit
(734) 971-9781 ext. 322
efalit@csswashtenaw.org
Julie Payne
(734) 971-9781 ext. 321

Adopted Teen/Parent Support Group
Adoption Triad Support Group
29260 Franklin Rd., Ste. 117
Southfield, MI 48034
Linda Yellin, MSW, ACSW
(248) 353-8687

Bonding by Blood, Unlimited
5845 Waterman Rd.
Foess Family Farm
Vassar, MI 48768
Mary Foess
(989) 823-4013
mfoess@gmail.com

Concerned United Birthparents, Inc.
Region 3
1270 Grosvenor
Palmyra, MI 49268
Christine Buehrer
(517) 486-3444
Pat Glisky, Region 3 Director
(800) 822-2777 ext. 3
www.cubirthparents.org

Post Adoption Support Services
N. 1194 W. Tie Lake Rd.
Wetmore, MI 49895
Jo Ann Swanson

Adoption Associates
1338 Baldwin
Jenison, MI 49428
Shelly Nibbelink
(800) 677-2367
www.adoptionassociates.net
National Support Groups

*American Adoption Congress*
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 1012
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 483-3399
[www.americanadoptioncongress.org](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org)

*Adoptees Liberty Movement Assoc.*
PO Box 727
Radio City Station
New York, NY 10101
(212) 581-1568

*Concerned United Birthparents*
PO Box 503475
San Diego, CA 92150
(800) 822-2777
[www.cubirthparents.org](http://www.cubirthparents.org)

State and National Registries

*Michigan Central Adoption Registry*
*Department of Health and Human Services*
PO Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-6075

*Michigan Searching*
Online site devoted to providing information on search and support resources
[www.michigansearching.com](http://www.michigansearching.com)

*International Soundex Reunion Registry*
PO Box 2312
Carson City, NV 89702
(775) 882-7755
[www.isrr.org](http://www.isrr.org)
CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY PROGRAM

The confidential intermediary program was established as a court administered program under Michigan’s adoption law, MCL710.68b. The following represents the most frequently asked questions relating to the confidential intermediary program and is provided as a guide to understand this program. It must be stressed that each court where the final order of adoption was entered will make their own determination regarding the services related to their confidential intermediary program.

What is the Confidential Intermediary Program?

The confidential intermediary program is a program available through the court where the final order of adoption was entered that allows for search and contact. This program is available for those adoptions in which the former parents’ rights were terminated ON or AFTER May 28, 1945 and BEFORE September 12, 1980.

In general, how does the program work?

An individual could file a petition with the court where the final order of adoption was entered. The court contacts the Central Adoption Registry to determine if a former parent filed a statement giving their consent to or denial of the release of their information; if no statement of denial is on file with the Central Adoption Registry, the court shall, by written order, appoint a confidential intermediary.

Who can petition the court for the appointment of a confidential intermediary?

The following individuals may petition the court for the appointment of a confidential intermediary:

✔ Former family members, who are defined as parent, grandparent, adult sibling related to the adult adopted person through birth or adoption by at least one common parent.
✔ Adult adopted person.
✔ Adoptive parent of a minor adopted person.
✔ Adult child of a deceased adopted person.

What are the credentials of a confidential intermediary?

As outlined in statute, the confidential intermediary, at a minimum, must be approved by the court after completing training and filing an oath of confidentiality with the court. The court will determine the type of training needed for the confidential intermediaries serving their court.

What is required of the confidential intermediary?

At a minimum, the confidential intermediary will:

✔ Act in a confidential manner, not disclosing identifying information in sealed records without written consent.
✔ Conduct a reasonable search, reporting to the court the results of the search and inquiry.
✔ Comply with the court’s instructions.
✔ Not charge or accept any fee for services except for a reasonable fee approved by the court and reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in performing services.
If the confidential intermediary locates the individual being sought, what is the next possible step?

The confidential intermediary shall discreetly and confidentially contact the individual being sought to ascertain whether the individual is willing to release information to the petitioner or to meet or communicate with the petitioner. If the individual, who has been found consents, in writing, to the release of their information, the intermediary shall release the information to the petitioner. Upon written mutual consent, the confidential intermediary may facilitate a meeting or other communication between the petitioner and/or the individual. The process of such will be carried out per court instruction.

What are the consequences if a confidential intermediary fails to contact the person(s) named in the petition?

If the confidential intermediary fails to contact a former family member within six months after the appointment, the adult adopted person may petition the court for the release of information that is considered identifying and any additional information obtained by the confidential intermediary. (NOTE: The adoption law speaks ONLY to the adult adopted person’s petition).

If the confidential intermediary is unable to locate the birth family member named in the petition, can the adult adopted person choose to again petition the court for the final release of identifying information?

YES.

In these types of cases, what may happen?

The court requires the confidential intermediary to submit a report to the court designating all efforts made to locate the former family member and all information obtained. The court then could:

✓ Order the confidential intermediary to search for another six-month period.
✓ Appoint a new confidential intermediary to search for a six-month period.
✓ Release to the adult adopted person the identifying information and any other information that the court considers appropriate, if the court finds that a diligent search had been made and that there was good cause to release the information.

What happens in situations where the individual being sought refuses to authorize the release of information or is deceased?

The confidential intermediary is required to report that fact to the court and the petitioner.