

**PROCEDURE FOR OPENING ADOPTION RECORDS  
IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
Effective February 1, 2009**

New Mexico is a sealed record state, meaning that adoption records are not available to the adult adoptee, birth parents, and/or adoptive parents without a court order. There are so many of us who would like to have information about our beginnings and our biological relatives, or a birth parent that would like to know how his/her adult child has fared. Because of this, we have worked out a system with the District Court to allow this to happen. It is called the Intermediary System.

The Intermediary System allows an adult adoptee, a birth parent of a child that is 18 years or older, or a sibling of a person 18 years or older to petition the courts to have the adoption file opened. We have been successful petitioning the First Judicial District Court in Santa Fe, and we use that court to obtain the State's adoption file. One of our Intermediaries with paralegal experience petitions the courts for you for a very reasonable price, or you may retain an attorney should you so desire. If you elect to use an attorney, he/she must contact the CYFD Adoption Unit for a list of certified intermediaries or use their website at [www.cyfd.org](http://www.cyfd.org).

If you would like any of us to start this procedure, you must write a letter stating your desire to petition the Court to open your adoption file. The following facts must be contained in the letter:

1. Your adoptive name. **If you are a birth parent**, your child's name at birth, if you are a sibling, your sibling's name at birth (if named).
2. The *date* and *place* of birth (city/state).
3. Your adoptive parents' names. The parents will not be contacted if you are an adult, but an adoptee's file is archived under the adoptive parents' name. It is also cross-referenced under the birth mother's name. So, **if you are a birth parent or sibling**, let the person petitioning the courts know what name was used at the time of birth. Records are not archived under alias names.
4. The County in which the adoption was finalized, if you know. It is probably the County where the adoptive parents lived at the time of the adoption.
5. That the Intermediary System has been explained to you.
6. Please enclose a photo copy of your driver's license with your information, along with a current address, phone number and email address.

Send this information, plus a Cashier's Check or Money Order for \$300.00 to:

Ann House  
400 Clark Rd. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105  
505-873-1719

This amount covers the filing of the Petition with the Court, postage and other costs associated with opening the file. (If you choose your own attorney, the fee might differ).

Ann will be petitioning the court in your name – called *pro se* – because she is not an attorney. There is a paragraph in the petition that clearly indicates you understand that no information contained in the file will be given to you, but will be given only to a Court Appointed Intermediary. After the Court issues the Order to have the file opened, the Order will be sent to the Children, Youth, and Families Department Protective Services Division. They will obtain the file and forward it to your Confidential Intermediary.

When your intermediary contacts you to inform you they are ready to begin the search, they will be requesting three items from you:

1. A picture of yourself and your family.
2. A letter to the person you are searching for, telling them a little bit about yourself and why you want to be in touch with them, using only non identifying information.
3. \$175.00 that is authorized by the Court for the expenses that are incurred while doing the search. *Please note: Ann House may also be assigned as the Court Appointed Intermediary. The intermediary fee is a separate fee from the cost to petition the court.*
4. If you spoke to an Intermediary and wish for that person to handle your case, please indicate which Intermediary you would like assigned.

Upon receiving these items, your intermediary will begin to work on completing your case as quickly as possible. Some cases are completed very quickly and some take longer than others. Once your Intermediary has located the person, they will attempt to contact them and inform them of your wishes.

Currently, we have about a 98% success rate of finding the person we are searching for. Going into this you must consider that the person you are searching for may not choose to have contact with you at this time in their life. It is not a personal rejection, because you cannot reject something you don't know, but you can reject a very unpleasant time in your life that you have tried to put behind you. It doesn't happen often, but you need to consider refusal is a possibility.

When the located person signs the Consent to Contact form, your Intermediary will make the necessary arrangements to put you in contact with your relative. Also, they will help you in any way possible to prepare for this soon-to-be emotional reunion.

If, after reading this, you still have questions concerning the process; please feel free to contact Ann House at 505-873-1719 or visit the NM Adoption Search website at <http://www.nmadoptionssearch.com> for further information.

We look forward to working with you.

### CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Ann House 400 Clark Rd. SW Albuquerque, NM 87105 505-873-1719 <a href="mailto:house.ann@gmail.com">house.ann@gmail.com</a>	Kathy Morrow 1709 Savannah Dr. NE Albuquerque, NM 87144 505-867-5511 <a href="mailto:kemorrow@cableone.net">kemorrow@cableone.net</a>	Elaine Sharp 3601 Stardust Dr. NE Albuquerque, NM 87110 505-884-3906 <a href="mailto:joyfuldiva@msn.com">joyfuldiva@msn.com</a>
FOR SOUTHEAST NM BIRTHS Kim Knight 1910 N. Atkinson Roswell, NM 88201 575-625-0905 <a href="mailto:klent@dfn.com">klent@dfn.com</a>	Toni House 910 Fruit NW Albuquerque, NM 87102 <a href="mailto:house.toni@gmail.com">house.toni@gmail.com</a>	