



Adoption & Foster Records

Adoption is a legal process where a child becomes a legal member of the adopting family with the same conditions as a biological member and all ties with the birth parents are cut. The child usually carries a new name.

Fostering is a process where children are taken into care when family conditions make it difficult to carry on e.g. death or illness of mother or father. This may be temporary or permanent and the child may or may not change its name.

Adoption has long been a means of providing care for children who have been abandoned or orphaned, as well as providing care for children or otherwise childless couples. It has also been used to supply heirs for families which might otherwise discontinue, or to bestow honour upon particular children who have been favoured by wealthy benefactors.

Tracing family

Apply for your original birth certificate. This will enable you to trace your birth parents using standard family history research processes; birth, death and marriage certificates, shipping records, electoral rolls, trade directories

Seeking adoption information

You can access adoption information from the original adoption file. Certain relatives of the adopted person may be able to access this information. If you want to find your birth relative, you will need to have this information.

Searching for your birth parent or child

You can apply to Births, Deaths and Marriages to search for your natural parent or child. The Department for Child Protection will need to authorise access to certificates.

Adopted person (over the age of 18)

You can apply for:

- original birth certificate
- birth certificate of the birth mother
- change of name or death certificate of either parent
- marriage certificate, if applicable, of the birth mother this will show the current surname of the birth mother.

Birth parents of adopted children (once their child is 18)

You can apply for:

- the adopted child's original birth certificate





- the child's post-adoptive birth certificate
- change of name certificate of child or death certificate of child.

All applications for searches for marriage, change of name or death entries need to be lodged with a copy of the original birth certificate. This will be returned to you with the search results.

South Australian Veto Laws Changed

As at 18 December 2017 no existing veto can be renewed and no new veto submitted.

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/adoption/changes-to-the-adoption-act/changes-to-vetoes>

Babies homes

- Walkerville Babies Home
- Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home Ceased to operate in 1976. There are no admission records. Information is held at Records and Adoption Family Information Services.
- McBrides Maternity Hospital operated by the Salvation Army.
- Destitute Asylum Lying-in-Hospital.
- Catholic Refuge at Norwood and then Fullarton
- Queens Home, Rose Park which later became Queen Victoria Hospital.

The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department established in 1927, combined the options of both the State Children's Department and Destitute Persons' Department. In 1966 it became the Social Welfare Department. Various records are available at State Records which cover these children.

- Ledgers of Children Boarded out 1862-1921 (GRG 27/5)
- Register of Children Apprenticed, Adopted or Licenced to Serve. (GRG 28/7)
- Register of Foster Mothers and Foster Children (GRG 28/15).
- Register of Children Placed with Licenced Foster Mothers GRG 27/17 (Mothers) and GRG 27/18 (children) 1886-1910, 1902-1910 respectively.
- Records of Licences Granted to Foster Mothers (GRG 27/6) for years 1900-1910
- Reports by Inspectors of Lying-In-Homes Maintained by State Children's Department (GRG 27/15)
- The index to Foster Mothers and Wet Nurses is in SAGHS library



Useful Links

- **SA.GOV.AU - Adoption in South Australia**
<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/parenting/adoption>
- **State Records of South Australia**
<https://archives.sa.gov.au/finding-information/using-our-collection/starting-your-research/family-history-research>
- **Find & Connect Support Services**
1800 16 11 09
Monday to Friday (9-5 All Australian states)
<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/about>
- **Nunkawarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc**
<https://nunku.org.au/our-services/social-emotional/link-up/>
They provide family tracing, reunion and counselling services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families who have been separated under the past policies and practices of the Australian Government. Assistance is also provided to people over the age of 18 years who have been adopted, fostered or raised in institutions.
- **Jigsaw**
<https://jigsaw.org.au/>
- **Department for Child Protection - Applying for adoption information**
<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/adoption/provision-of-adoption-information>
Freedom of Information Team
Department for Child Protection
GPO Box 1072
Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: 8226 4399
Email: DCP.FOI@sa.gov.au