



Undertaking a search for your now adult child who was placed for adoption in South Australia

Post Adoption Support Service (PASS) provides assistance and support to persons who have lost their child or family relative to adoption, if the adoption took place in South Australia.

Searching can be quite an emotional journey, and you may want to enlist the support of family or friends. There are no guarantees on how long it will take for someone to be located, and it is possible that the search results may be inconclusive or not give you the information or result you are seeking.

PASS can support you through any stage of the searching process, and can act as mediators if and when you are ready to make contact with your now adult child or relative. Before making contact, we suggest you make an appointment to see someone at PASS, so you can be guided and supported through this next stage.

Once you are ready to begin the search process, here is a list of steps to follow which will help to guide you through this journey:

1. Make contact with Adoption and Family Information Services (AFIS), to get the adoption file (see contact details in 'other useful contacts' section). Provided there is no veto in place, your information will include an authority for you to get your pre-adoption birth certificate. You will need this to access further information
2. Go to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BD&M) (see contact details in 'other useful contacts' section) to apply for the post adoption birth certificate of your child. This will allow you to do some further searching if necessary.
3. If your child was a girl, she may now be married and have changed her name. You can do a 'marriage search' through BD&M, which will let you know if this has happened in SA. This will ensure that you have the most current name, which is what you will need to search.
4. You can also have BD&M do a 'death search', which will let you know if the person you are seeking information about has died.
5. Once you have this information, you can begin your search. Some of the ways you can search are as follows:
 - Electoral rolls (new and old)
 - New and old telephone books
 - Sands and McDougall books in the State Library
 - Baptismal and marriage registers at various churches.

These are the main ways of searching, and if these turn up nothing, PASS can support you with information on where to go for further searching.

Once you have found an address for the person you are looking for, you may then be thinking more about making contact with them. It is important to be aware that the personal circumstances of the 'found' person may make it difficult for them to engage in communication with you, so we advise that you consider the best way to approach. For further information about this, please see the information sheet 'Making Contact'.

PASS runs a regular monthly support group for mothers whose child was adopted. The group meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month, from 10am - 12pm at Relationships Australia.

PASS also runs a variety of other seminars and workshops. For information about these and any other enquiries about our service please contact please contact Post Adoption Support Services on (08) 8245 8100, or email us at passinfo@rasa.org.au

PASS is a program area of Relationships Australia SA and is located at: 49a Orsmond St, Hindmarsh, SA, 5007

Other useful contacts

Adoption and Family Information Services (AFIS)

Level 7, 108 North Terrace Adelaide SA 5000

Adelaide SA 5000

PH: (08) 8207 0060

Births Deaths and Marriages

Level 2, Chesser House

91-97 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: (08) 8204 9599

SA Link Up Services for Aboriginal people

Nunkuwarnin Yunti

182 Wakefield St

Adelaide SA 5000

PH: (08) 8223 5217

NB: Some of the information in this leaflet has been reprinted with permission from 'Adoptions, Search and Contact', Adoptions and Family Information Service.