

- ★ If you would like to speak directly to us you can call us anytime on telephone number **01473 265700** and a Duty Worker will get back to you during our duty hours (Monday between 09:30 and 12:30 or a Thursday between 14:00 and 16:30).
- ★ Alternatively, you can write to us at our address:
Post Adoption Support Team
Suffolk County Council
Suffolk Adoption Agency
Endeavour House
8 Russell Road
Ipswich
IP1 2BX

After you Contact us

- ★ We can discuss your request during duty hours and we may be able to offer advice and information over the phone, or in writing. Alternatively, we may be able to put you in touch with other appropriate services.
- ★ We will apply to the **adoption agency** that arranged the adoption - if known (or holds the adoption file, if different to us) for access to the adoption records.
- ★ We may need to apply to the **court** that made the adoption order (if known) for any details about the adoption, if the adoption agency is not known.

Our Promise to You

- ★ We offer a co-ordinated approach to support; based on partnership and open communication with adopted people, birth relatives and other professionals.
- ★ We keep your information **confidential** and do not share anything without your **consent** except where there are serious concerns about the welfare of a child. In these cases, we are bound to follow this up and we would refer to the Children's **Safeguarding** Team. We comply with the **Data Protection Act** and you have a right to see any information we record about you.

Other useful Contacts

British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF)

Telephone: 020 7421 2600

Website: <http://www.baaf.org.uk>

General Register Office (GRO)

Telephone: 0151 471 4830

Website: <http://www.gro.gov.uk>

LINK Adoption Support Services

Telephone: 01206 362540

After Adoption

Telephone: 0800 0 568 578

Website: <http://www.afteradoption.org.uk>

Supporting Adopted Adults

This leaflet explains the services offered by Suffolk's Adoption Support Team

(In conjunction with Schedule 2 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, and the Adoption and Children Act 2002 Guidance Chapter 10)



Who are We?

The Adoption Support Team is part of Suffolk County Council Adoption Service.

Adoption is a lifelong process and we understand that adopted people may need support to manage their identity or other concerns that arise.

We are here to provide support to those adopted people who may want to seek information about their adoption, assurance's that their relative is alive and well, or obtaining the information they need to trace a relative and establish contact with them.

Who do we Support?

- ★ Our work is underpinned by The Adoption and Children Act 2002 which came into force in England and Wales on 30 December 2005. The act provides clear pathways for both adopted people and birth relatives seeking information about the adoption, the people involved and family history and origins.
- ★ We support adopted people living in Suffolk who were adopted via Suffolk County Council.
- ★ We also support all adopted people currently residing in Suffolk.

What Support we Provide?

- ★ The Adoption Support Team of experienced, social workers who can offer the following services:
- ★ The opportunity to discuss your feelings about your adoption. It will be useful to look at the expectations of your birth family, the significance of your adopted family and consider some of the difficulties you might experience in furthering your search.
- ★ Should records be available, you will be given the opportunity to see and have a copy of the file.
- ★ If you decide to take the matter further, eventually locating the whereabouts of the birth relatives, you may wish to discuss your decision before attempting to make contact.
- ★ If you do the tracing yourself you may wish to ask us to write on your behalf to the birth relative.
- ★ Information of other agencies offering support to adopted people and their families.
- ★ An application form and explanatory leaflet to place your name on the Adoption Contact Register held by the **General Register Office (GRO)**.
- ★ The opportunity to adopted people not wanting contact from birth family to register with our Adoption Support Team or any other relevant agency involved their wishes to place a qualified or absolute VETO.

- ★ There are occasions when records may have been damaged or lost. If this is the case, the adoption social worker will be able to advise you how to proceed with your search for more information.

The Legislative Framework

- ★ Adopted people who were adopted before 30 December 2005 and are aged 18 or over, may;
- ★ Apply to the **General Register Office (GRO)** for the information necessary to enable you to obtain a copy of your original birth certificate.
- ★ Those adopted people who were adopted before 12 November 1975 and who do not know their original name will have to attend a meeting with a social worker before the **GRO** can disclose the information they need to obtain a copy of your original birth certificate.
- ★ Attending a meeting with a social worker is optional, but recommended for those adopted on or after 12 November 1975 but before 30 December 2005.

How to Get in Touch

- ★ You can contact us by email at adoption.ipswich@suffolk.gov.uk