



# Advice for Adults who were Adopted

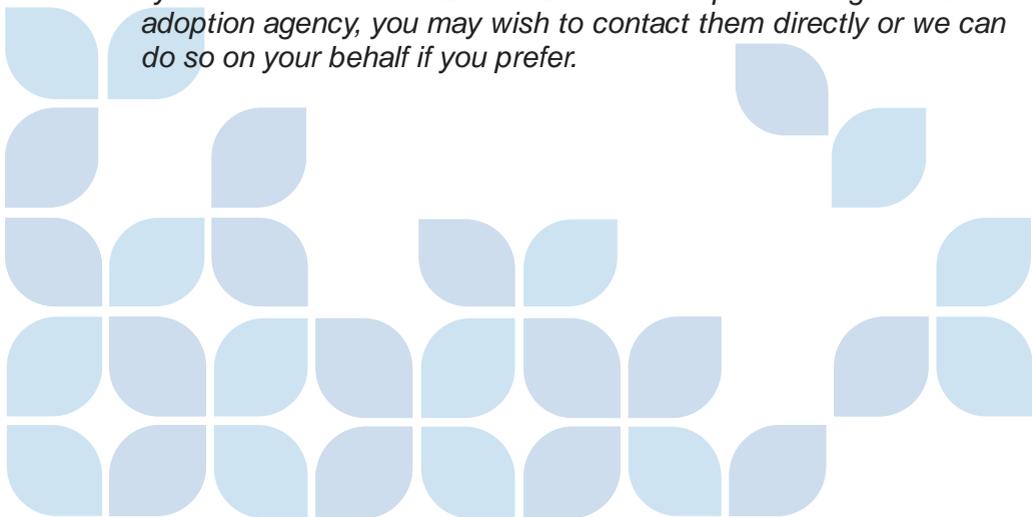
This leaflet provides information for people who have been adopted and who wish to seek information from their adoption records.

We understand that wanting to find out more about our origins is an important part of understanding our identity. Perth & Kinross Council offers a service of counselling and support to those wishing to find out more information and/or to trace birth relatives.

## How can we help?

Firstly, there are a number of things you should know:

- *You will need to show us some proof of identity such as your birth certificate, driving licence, passport or an official letter addressed to you.*
- *In Scotland, you need to be 16 before you can access your adoption record.*
- *If you live in Perth and Kinross and were adopted through Perth & Kinross Council (or Tayside Council before 1996) we can assist you to locate your adoption record.*
- *If you live in Perth and Kinross and were adopted through another adoption agency, you may wish to contact them directly or we can do so on your behalf if you prefer.*



## What will happen next?

An initial conversation or meeting with a social worker will help you think about the possible ways in which your enquiry about your adoption record might affect you, people in your adopted family and in your birth family. We are able to help you access your adoption record if this is what you wish to do.

In some situations, we may not be able to share all the information in your adoption file with you. This may be because some information is about other people from whom we are unable to seek their permission to share. However, we will try to be as helpful as possible to ensure that you have as full a picture of your pre-adoption and adoption story as possible.

We are able to offer only a limited search service if you wish to contact birth relatives but if this is not successful, we can advise you how you might take things forward.

Before contacting birth relatives, you should consider carefully their situation and the impact on them should you decide to go ahead. It is very important that you consider using a third party as an intermediary in this sensitive process. We can offer this service and assist in an exchange of information between you and a birth relative and support and advise you if you wish to meet them. This ensures that things proceed at a pace that is right for all concerned and that we can support you through the process.



## Services at Birthlink

Birthlink is an organisation based in Edinburgh which offers a tracing service for people who do not wish or feel able to do this for themselves.

Birthlink is responsible for the *Adoption Contact Register for Scotland*. The Register provides a confidential, central point of contact between adults who have been separated by adoption and serves the needs of adopted adults and birth relatives.

The Register can be used to link any two parties who have registered and want this to happen. This is done through a social worker and in negotiation with each person.

The *Scottish Adoption Registry* is a computerised register of all adoptions in Scotland through an approved adoption agency. It can tell you which social work agency holds your adoption records.

Birthlink also have an *Adoption Counselling Centre* which offer information and advice about adoption issues which affects adults.

Birthlink charge a fee for their services.

### **Birthlink**

21 Castle Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH2 3DN

Tel 0131 225 6441  
[www.birthlink.org.uk](http://www.birthlink.org.uk)



## Useful addresses

### **General Register Office for Scotland**

New Register House  
3 West Register Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3YT

Tel 0131 334 0380  
[www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)

### **The General Register Office for England and Wales**

Adoptions Section  
Trafalgar Road  
SOUTHPORT  
PR8 2HH

Tel 0151 471 4252  
[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

### **The General Register Office for Northern Ireland**

Oxford House  
49-55 Chichester Street  
BELFAST  
BT1 4HL

Tel 02890 252000  
[www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

### **The National Archives of Scotland**

2 Princes Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3YY

Tel 0131 535 1314  
[www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk)



## Complaints

Whilst it is Perth & Kinross Council's intention to provide a good service, if you have a complaint, please contact the team leader of the Permanence Team in the first instance. If the situation cannot be resolved to your satisfaction, please ask for the leaflet '*Your right to be heard, our duty to listen*' which is available from social work offices and on the Perth & Kinross Council website.

As Perth & Kinross Council is regulated by the Care Inspectorate in Scotland you may also complain to:

### **The Care Inspectorate**

Compass House  
Riverside Drive  
DUNDEE  
DD1 4NY

Tel 01382 207200  
[www.carecommission.com](http://www.carecommission.com)

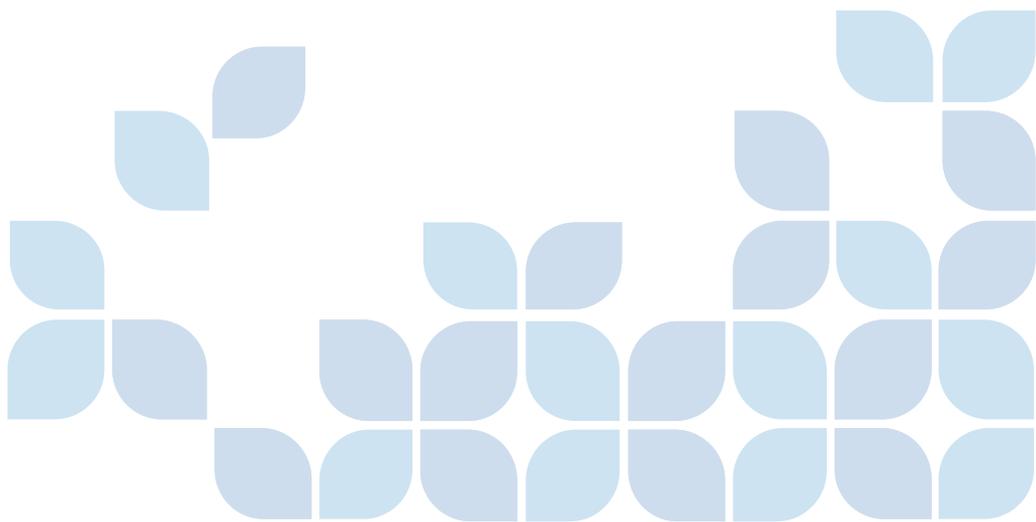
Please contact us at:

### **Permanence Team**

Education & Children's Services  
Perth & Kinross Council  
Almondbank House  
Lewis Plce  
PERTH  
PH1 3BD

Tel 01738 472260  
Email [ECSfosteringandadoption@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ECSfosteringandadoption@pkc.gov.uk)







If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.