



Post-Adoption Services and Fees

An Application for Post-Adoption Services will need to be completed and signed in front of a notary before any services with fees associated with them can begin. This application is needed to confirm your identity to keep full confidentiality for all parties of adoption.

All fees cover partial costs of rendering the following post-adoption services to the requester of these services. New Life Adoptions (New Life) believes in providing excellent post-adoption services and will not deny service based on inability to pay for requested service. If requesting a fee reduction for post-adoption services, please submit a written statement indicating the amount you can pay.

ADOPTION COMPETENT THERAPY

Please note that the post-adoption services provided through New Life Adoptions do not substitute for professional counseling. It is not uncommon to need additional mental health support from an adoption competent therapist when seeking post-adoption services as the topics, relationships, or process in general may bring up a variety of thoughts and feelings regarding your adoption story. We highly encourage you to seek the help and support you need to work through any of these thoughts and feelings. We can offer referrals to adoption competent therapists as well as other applicable resources.

NOTIFICATION OF YOUR RIGHTS

Minnesota Statute 259.83, Subd. 1 states that we must inform adopted adults aged 18 and older about the right of an adopted person to request and obtain a copy of the adopted person's original birth record. We must also inform birth parents named on an adopted person's original birth record about their right to file a contact preference form with the Minnesota Department of Health.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OBTAINING AN ORIGINAL BIRTH RECORD

An adopted person 18 or older can request a copy of their Original Birth Record from the Minnesota Department of Health. New Life Adoptions cannot release an Original Birth Record.

- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/adoption.html> (information)
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/docs/adpncbsrch2024.pdf> (form)

SUBMITTING A BIRTH PARENT CONTACT PREFERENCE FORM

Birth parents named on an Original Birth Record may submit a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form to the Minnesota Department of Health to indicate whether they would like to be contacted by the adopted person.

- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/adoption.html> (information)
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/docs/contactpref.pdf> (form)

SERVICES PROVIDED BY NEW LIFE ADOPTIONS

STANDARD SERVICES (No fee charged)

- Providing any post-adoption services within the first two years after placement
- Updating information for file (name change, new address, new contact information, etc.)
- Passing on new medical information from birth family
- Connecting clients with similar adoption circumstances
- Offering resources and referrals
- Coordinating visits between parties
- Forwarding/copying regular correspondence between parties
- General post-adoption questions
- Checking file for stored correspondence
- Assistance with requesting an Original Birth Record from the Minnesota Department of Health

REQUESTING DOCUMENTS FROM FILE

- Receiving correspondence from file. – **\$25 Fee**
- Receiving Social and Medical History Packet from file. – **\$25 Fee**
- Requesting identifying information listed on the birth certificate of a child born outside of Minnesota (See Minnesota Statute § 259.83 Subd. 3a.) – **\$25**

REQUESTING NON-IDENTIFYING BACKGROUND INFORMATION – \$50 Fee

Adopted adults or parents of a minor adopted child may request a summary of the social and medical background information regarding the adopted person's birth family. This summary is compiled from information located in the file at the time of placement. It may include information about the birth family such as physical descriptions, ethnic background, religious affiliation, schooling, talents, or hobbies. No identifying information about the birth family will be included in this summary.

REQUESTING UPDATED MEDICAL INFORMATION

This option is for when an adopted adult, or adoptive parents of a minor adopted child, would like to request medical information from one or both birth parents but would not like to initiate personal contact.

- **New Life has most current contact information – \$50 Fee:**
 - The party submits the specific information they are requesting (additional medical information, health history, etc.) to the post-adoption worker.
 - The post-adoption worker contacts the appropriate party, relays the request, acts as an intermediary, and provides support and counsel to the receiving party.
 - This fee is paid per person we are requesting information from. If an adopted adult or adoptive family is requesting updated information from both birth parents, there will be an **additional \$50 fee**.
- **New Life does not have sufficient contact information – Additional \$50 Fee:**
 - If New Life does not have current information for the sought-out party and needs to do a full search for **an additional \$50**, the requesting party will be notified to see if they want to proceed prior to conducting the search.
 - This fee is paid per person we are requesting information from. If an adopted adult or adoptive family is requesting updated information from both birth parents, there will be an **additional \$50 fee**.

Birth parents can pass on updated medical information at no charge. If New Life Adoptions receives updated medical information from a birth parent, we will make a diligent effort to contact the adopted adult or adoptive parents of a minor adopted child in order to transmit the health information.

RECONNECTING WITH OTHER PARTY

This service involves reconnecting parties who, in the past, have had an open adoption relationship to some degree.

- If we have updated contact information on file and contact has been within the last 5 years – **No Fee**
- If we have updated contact information on file and they have not had contact with other party for over 5 years – **\$25 Fee**
- If we must search for updated contact information – **\$75 Fee** or **additional \$50 fee**

REQUESTING A SEARCH FOR ANOTHER PARTY

- **New Life has most current contact information – \$50 Fee:**
 - Connecting confidentially with the party being sought after in order to see if he/she is ready and willing to proceed with opening the adoption at this point.
 - If the requesting party has written a letter, New Life will forward it after connecting with the other party and provide limited counsel to both parties if needed. The initiating party is informed whether the letter has been passed on or put in the receiving party's file.
 - Contact information is shared with both parties for them to continue on their own.
 - Brief counsel is offered throughout the reunion process for both parties when New Life is assisting. This is helpful as emotions may be high and both parties have many questions.
 - This fee is paid per person we are searching for. If an adoptive family or an adopted adult is requesting to search for both birth parents, there will be an **additional \$50 fee.**

- **New Life does not have sufficient contact information – \$100 Fee:**
 - Searching for new contact information if information found in file is insufficient or out of date.
 - Connecting confidentially with the party being sought after to see if he/she is ready and willing to proceed with opening the adoption at this point.
 - If the requesting party has written a letter, New Life will forward it after connecting with the other party and provide limited counsel to both parties if needed. The initiating party is informed whether the letter has been passed on or put in the receiving party's file.
 - Contact information is shared with both parties for them to continue on their own.
 - Brief counsel is offered throughout the reunion process for both parties when New Life is assisting. This is helpful as emotions may be high and both parties have many questions.
 - This fee is paid per person we are searching for. If an adoptive family or an adopted adult is requesting to search for both birth parents, there will be an **additional \$100 fee.**

- **Reunion assistance requested – Additional \$50 Fee:**
 - New Life provides a meeting place and a mediator for the first meeting.
 - Brief counsel is offered throughout the reunion process for both parties when New Life is assisting. This is helpful as emotions may be high and both parties have many questions.
 - If an additional face-to-face meeting is requested, a **\$50 fee will be added.**

BOTH PARTIES DESIRE COUNSELING, CONSULTATION, OR MEDIATION – \$100 Fee

- Process includes:
 - Coordinating meeting with both parties.
 - Receiving all necessary information from both parties prior to meeting.
 - One face-to-face meeting with consultation with both parties present; one hour minimum.
 - If an additional face-to-face meeting is requested, a **\$50 fee will be added.**
 - **Note:** This is not therapy and does not substitute for therapy. If you need additional counseling, we can offer referrals to adoption competent therapists.

PLEASE NOTE: If your request is not listed above, please contact the post-adoption department at New Life Adoptions to help determine which fee (if any) applies.

Minnesota Statute 259.83 (subd. 5) allows for agencies to charge reasonable fees for post-adoption services. For all post-adoption services, payment must be received before the service is rendered except for additional fees that are charged as needed. New Life Adoptions charges the above fees to assist in covering costs for the services rendered. Vital services will not be denied. If necessary, contact New Life Adoptions' post-adoption department for possible fee reductions based on income.

If you have questions, email us at
info@newlifeadoptionsmn.org or call us at
 612-746-5670