



National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information National Adoption Information Clearinghouse



Gateways to Information: Protecting Children and Strengthening Families

2003 Adoption State Statutes Series Statutes-at-a-Glance Collection of Family Information About Adopted Persons, Birth Parents, and Adoptive Parents

What You Need to Know

Requirements regarding collection of information about those involved in an adoption differ from State to State. Each State establishes its own guidelines regarding who can collect information and what kinds of information may be collected regarding the child to be adopted, the birth parents, and the adoptive parents.

Who May Collect Information

Parties authorized to collect information about those involved in an adoption range from government agencies to individual social workers, depending on the State. Typically, this information is gathered and compiled on a form provided by a government agency, private child placement agency, or court appointed investigator (such as a social worker or other professional children's worker), but some States require the birth parents and/or adoptive parents to file a written report containing specified information.

Information About the Adopted Person

Generally, information obtained regarding the child includes medical history, genetic history, family background, placement history, and history of any type of abuse. Some States require specific types of information (such as educational background, interests, and hobbies), others are more general, and some States require more information than others.

Information About Birth Parents

Overall, the information gathered about birth parents is more specific than that about the child being placed for adoption. States generally require information about birth parents' medical history, family history, religious background, ethnic and racial background, and educational level attained. Some States allow for information to be collected on physical appearance, talents, hobbies, field of occupation, and drugs taken during pregnancy.

Information About Adoptive Parents

Typically, prior to or immediately after an adoption petition is filed, an investigation of the prospective parents is carried out to determine the suitability of the home for a minor child. The report produced from such investigations is known as the home study or pre-placement report. In general, the following information is included in the home study or pre-placement report:

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse

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<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>

The Clearinghouses are services of
The Children's Bureau
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



- Adoptive parents' emotional maturity
- Marriage and family relationships
- Motivation to adopt
- Parenting and integration of the child into the family
- Family environment
- Physical and health history of the applicants
- Education, employment, and finances—including insurance coverage and child care plans if needed
- References and criminal background and child abuse clearances

For more information about the home study process, read the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse fact sheet, *The Adoption Home Study Process* (http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/f_homstu.cfm).

The Statutes-at-a-Glance listings summarize specific sections of each State's code. While every attempt has been made to be as complete as possible, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State's code as well as agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures. Readers interested in the interpretation of specific statutory provisions within an individual jurisdiction should consult with professionals within the State familiar with the statutes' implementation.

Statutes-at-a-Glance publications also are available on the Clearinghouse Web site (<http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>). Our online State Statutes database is searchable by State or Region.

Alabama

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 26-10A-19

- Department of Human Resources
- Child placement agency
- Licensed investigating agency appointed by the court or department

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 26-10A-19

- Physical and mental history
- Any property owned by the adopted person
- Any orders, judgments, or decrees affecting the adopted person

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 26-10A-19

- Health and medical history
- General family background
- Length of time child was in out-of-home care
- Reasons for relinquishing the adopted person

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 26-10A-19

- Suitability
 - Criminal background check
 - Social and financial information
 - Any other relevant information
-

Alaska

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 25.23.100(d)

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Any other qualified agency or person designated by the court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 25.23.100(d)

Conditions and antecedents of the adopted person

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: §§ 25.23.185; 18.50.510

- Age at time of adopted person's birth
- National origin, ethnic background, Tribal membership
- Physical description
- Medical history
- Education completed
- Religion
- Existence of other children of the parents

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 25.23.100(d)

Suitability of parents and their home

American Samoa

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 45.0414

- Department of Health
- Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 45.0414

- Physical and mental condition of the adopted person
- Adopted person's family background
- Adopted person's attitude toward adoption
- Length of time the child has been in the care and custody of the petitioner

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 45.0414

- Names of birth parents
- Reasons for terminating parental rights

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 45.0414

- Suitability
- Physical and mental health
- Emotional stability
- Moral integrity
- Ability to promote welfare of the adopted person

Arizona

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report Statute: § 8-129(A)

- The division
- Agency or person placing the adopted person
- Court officer

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health, genetic, and social history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 8-129

Health and genetic history and all non-identifying information about birth parents and other family members

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 8-105(E)

- Finances
 - Criminal background check
 - Moral fitness
 - Religious background
 - Social history
 - Physical and mental health
 - History of child abuse or neglect
 - Inclusion in Adoption Registry
-

Arkansas

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report Statute: § 9-9-212(b)

- The Department of Human Services
- Licensed child welfare agency or social worker

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: §§ 9-9-212(g); 9-9-505

- Social history
- Health and genetic history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 9-9-505

- Health and genetic history
 - Social history
 - Non-identifying information
-

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: § 9-9-212(b)

- Suitability
- Criminal background check
- History of child abuse or neglect

The background check applies to all members of the adoptive household.

California

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: Fam. Code §§ 8706; 8817

- State Department of Social Services
- County adoption agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: Fam. Code §§ 8706; 8817

- Medical background
- Psychological evaluation
- Scholastic development
- Developmental history and family life

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: Fam. Code § 8817

- Medical background
- May provide blood samples for DNA testing

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: Fam. Code § 8908

- Criminal background check
 - Assessment of ability to provide adequate and proper care and guidance
-

Colorado

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 19-5-207

- Department of Social Services
 - Child placement agency
 - Qualified individual
-

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 19-5-207

- Physical and mental condition
- Family background, including names of parents if obtainable
- Child's disposition toward adoption
- Length of time child has been in custody of petitioner

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 19-5-207

- Family background, including names, if obtainable
- Reasons for terminating parental rights

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 19-5-207

- Physical and mental health
- Emotional stability
- Moral integrity
- Ability to promote welfare of the adopted person
- Suitability of match
- Criminal background check
- Child abuse and neglect and spousal abuse history
- Drug convictions

Connecticut

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 45a-727

- Department of Children and Family Services
- Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 45a-727

- Physical, mental, genetic, educational, and dental history (including neonatal records)
- Immunization records
- Family relationships
- History of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 45a-746

- Age at birth of child
- Heritage, talents, education
- General physical appearance
- Existence of other children of the parent
- Reasons for placing child for adoption
- Religion
- Occupation
- Medical and mental health history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 45a-727

Physical, mental, social, and financial condition

Delaware

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Tit. 13, § 901

- Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families
- Licensed placing agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Tit. 13, § 912

- Physical and mental history
- Family background and eligibility for adoption

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Tit. 13, § 924

Health and medical information

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Tit. 13, § 912

- Suitability of placement
- Relevant information about both, if applicable, adoptive parents and home

District of Columbia

**Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 16-307**

- Child placement agency
- Mayor

**Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: § 16-307**

- Environs, antecedents, assets of the child
- Whether child is the proper subject for adoption

**Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Not addressed in statutes reviewed**

**Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: §§ 16-307; 16-309**

- Suitability of home
 - Whether a subsidy will be given
-

Florida

**Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 63.082**

- Department of Children and Family Services
- Child placement agency
- Licensed professional

**Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: § 63.082**

Biological, sociological, and medical history

**Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: § 63.082**

Biological, sociological, and medical history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: §§ 63.092; 63.125

- Suitability
 - Family background
 - Medical history
 - Criminal background and child abuse registry records check
 - Physical environment of home
 - Financial condition
 - Documentation on counseling and education on adoptive parenting
-

Georgia

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 19-8-16

- Department of Human Resources
- Child placement agency
- Any court-appointed agent

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 19-8-17

- Physical and mental condition
- General family background
- Circumstances under which child came to be placed for adoption

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 19-8-23

Genetic, social, and health history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: §§ 19-8-16; 19-8-17

- Financial, physical, and mental capability
 - Criminal background check
 - Suitability of the home
-

Guam

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Tit. 19, § 4210

Division of Social Services

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Tit. 19, § 4210

- Social history
- Present condition of the child
- Adjustment to petitioner's home, if applicable

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health and genetic history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Tit. 19, § 4210

- Suitability
 - Any other pertinent information
-

Hawaii

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 578-14.5

- Department of Health
- Department of Human Services

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 578-14.5

Medical background, including potential genetic or inheritable diseases

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 578-14.5

Medical background, including potential genetic or inheritable diseases

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 578-8

- Whether the parent is mentally, physically, and otherwise suitable to adopt a child
 - Whether the parent is financially capable of giving the child a proper home and education
-

Idaho

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 16-1506

- Department of Health and Welfare
 - Child placement agency
 - Private investigator
-

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 16-1506

Medical and social history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 16-1506

- Medical and social history
- Genetic information

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 16-1506

Social investigation

Illinois

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: 750 ILCS § 50/18.4

- Child placement agency
- The Department of Children and Family Services
- Applicable court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: 750 ILCS §§ 50/18.4; 50/18.05; 50/6

- Medical and mental health history
- Updated medical information, which can be made available through a registry
- Religion

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: 750 ILCS § 50/18.4

- Age
- Race, religion, ethnic background
- General physical appearance
- Education, occupation, hobbies
- Existence of other children
- Country of origin and reason for emigrating (if applicable)
- Health history of birth parents and immediate relatives

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: 750 ILCS § 50/6

- Criminal background check
 - Character
 - Reputation
 - Health
 - General standing in community
 - Religion
 - Suitability of home
-

Indiana

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 31-19-23-1

- Child placement agency
- Division of Family and Child Services

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: §§ 31-19-2-7; 31-19-8-6

- Health status and medical history including neonatal, psychological, physiological, and medical care
- Former environment and antecedents of the child
- Possible barriers to the child's placement including ethnic background, race, language, disabilities, or a member of a sibling group

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: §§ 31-19-2-7; 31-19-17-2

- Health status
- Medical history
- Medical, psychological, and educational records

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: §§ 31-19-8-6; 31-19-2-7.5

- Suitability of the home
- Financial conditions
- Criminal background check

Iowa

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 600.8

- Child placement agency
- The department
- Investigator

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 600A.4

- Family medical and social history, including any known disorders
- Developmental history
- Racial, ethnic, and religious background
- Prior and existing relationships

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 600A.4

- Family medical and social history
- General physical description

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 600.8

- Suitability of home
- Emotional maturity
- Finances
- Health
- Relationships
- Criminal background check
- History of child abuse and neglect

Kansas

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 59-2132

- Child placement agency
- Court-approved social worker

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 59-2130

- Genetic, medical, and social history
- Hospital records

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 59-2130

Genetic, medical, and social history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 59-2132

- Home investigation
 - Ability to care for adopted person
 - Financial capability
 - Criminal background and child abuse and neglect registry check
 - Genetic and medical history
-

Kentucky

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 199.510

- Cabinet for Families and Children
- Individual, agency, or institution designated by the court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 199.510

- Whether the child is suitable for adoption
- Full description of any property owned by the child

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 199.520

- Health history of parents and their blood relatives
- Any other non-identifying information

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 199.510

- Financial and moral fitness
- Whether adoption is in the best interest of the adopted person

Louisiana

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Ch. Code. Art. 1207

- Department of Social Services
- Department may delegate investigation to a child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Ch. Code. Art. 1207

- Availability of child for adoption
- Physical and mental condition
- Other factors regarding suitability for adoption

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Ch. Code. Art. 1124; 1125

- Family history
- Medical and genetic history
- Wishes concerning release of non-identifying information in the event of medical necessity

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Ch. Code. Art. 1177

- Stability of home
 - Moral fitness
 - Financial capacity
 - Adequacy of home
 - Criminal background check
 - Complaints of child abuse and neglect
-

Maine

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Tit. 18-A, § 9-304

- Department of Human Services
- Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Tit. 18-A, § 9-304

- Entire medical, genetic, psychological, and developmental history
 - History of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse
 - Immunizations and health care received
 - Conditions and antecedents of the child
-

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Tit. 18-A, § 9-304

- Medical and genetic information
- Drugs taken during pregnancy
- Hereditary predispositions
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Medical, psychological, and social history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Tit. 18-A, § 9-304

- Screening for child abuse
 - Criminal history check
 - Suitability
-

Maryland

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Fam. Law § 5-328

Any person authorized to place a minor child

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Fam. Law §§ 5-329.1; 5-316

- Medical and dental records
- Religious background

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Fam. Law § 5-328

- Medical history
- Religious background

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Fam. Law § 5-316

Religious background

Massachusetts

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Ch. 210, § 5A

- Department of Social Services
 - Charitable corporation as assigned by the court
-

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: Ch. 210, § 5A

- Conditions and antecedents of the child
- Federal registry for missing children check

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: Ch. 210, § 5D

Medical, ethnic, and socio-economic information and level of education

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: Ch. 210, § 5A

Suitability of home and as parents

Michigan

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 710.46

- Family Independence Agency
- Child placement agency
- Employee or agent of the court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: § 710.27

- Date and place of birth
- Health and genetic history
- Prenatal care; medical condition at birth
- Medical, psychological, and dental information
- Any abuse or neglect suffered by the child
- Records of immunizations and health care
- Education records
- Physical description and family origin

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: § 710.27

- Medical, social, and genetic information
- Hereditary disease disposition
- Health at birth
- Medical, psychological, and dental information
- Drugs taken by mother during pregnancy
- Racial, ethnic, and religious background
- Achievements, e.g., educational

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 710.22

- Emotional ties to the adoptive child
 - Capacity for love, affection, and guidance
 - Ability to provide education
 - Ability to foster the religion, racial identity, and culture of the child
 - Capacity to provide food, clothing, permanence, and medical care
 - Moral fitness
 - Mental and physical health
-

Minnesota

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 259.41

- Licensed child placement agency
- Minnesota Federally recognized Tribe

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 259.53

- Genetic, medical, and social history
- The environs and antecedents of the child
- The health and well being of the child in the home, post-placement
- Level of child's culture in new home

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 259.43

Social and medical history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 259.41

- Criminal background check
 - Medical and social history
 - Current health
 - Assessment of parenting skills
 - Ability to provide financial support
 - Knowledge of adoption issues
-

Mississippi

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 93-17-11

Any person, officer, or home as the court designates

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 93-17-3

- Doctor's certificate showing mental and physical condition of the child
- Sworn statement of all property owned by child

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 93-17-205

- Medical and social history
- Genetic information
- Prenatal care
- Medical condition of mother at birth of child and prior to petition for adoption

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 93-17-11

- Suitability
 - Any other relevant information
-

Missouri

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 453.070

- Division of Family Services
- Juvenile court officer
- Child placement agency
- Social worker
- Other suitable person appointed by the court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 453.070

- Suitability of the child for adoption
- Whether child is a potential subsidy recipient

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health and genetic history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 453.070

- Condition of the home
 - Education level
 - Financial, medical, marital, and psychological status
 - Criminal background check
-

Montana

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: §§ 42-3-101, 42-3-202

- Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Child placement agency
- Social worker

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health, genetic, and social history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 42-3-101

- Medical and social history
- Tribal affiliation, if applicable

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: §§ 43-3-203, 42-2-204

- Criminal background check
- Child abuse and neglect check
- Medical and social history, and current health
- Parenting skills
- Marital status
- Age, nationality
- Financial situation
- Awareness of adoption issues such as cross-cultural adoption

Nebraska

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 43-107

- Child placement agency
- Department of Health and Human Services

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 43-107

Complete medical history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 43-107

Medical history of both birth parents and biological family, if available

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: § 43-107

- Suitability
 - Criminal history check
 - Central register check for history of child abuse
-

Nevada

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 127.152

- Child welfare services agency
- Child placing agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: §§ 127.120; 127.152

- Medical records
- Sociological and medical history
- Behavioral, emotional, psychological problems
- Any special needs
- Determination of Indian heritage

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: § 127.152

Medical and sociological history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: §§ 127.120; 127.281; 127.2805

- Suitability
 - Medical, mental, moral, and financial competence
 - Criminal background check
-

New Hampshire

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 170-B:14

- Department of Health and Human Services
 - Child placement agency designated by court
-

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: § 170-B:14

- Antecedents of the minor
- Any special needs

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: § 170-B:19

- Medical and health information about parents and relatives
- Non-identifying background information

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: § 170-B:14

- Suitability
 - Ability to give proper home and education
 - Potential to receive subsidy
-

New Jersey

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 9:3-41.1

Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: § 9:3-41.1

- Developmental and medical history
- Personality and temperament

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: § 9:3-41.1

- Medical history, including hereditary conditions
- Drugs and medications taken during pregnancy
- Any known factor that may influence the current or future health of the adopted person

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: § 9:3-54.2

- Suitability
- Criminal background check
- History of child abuse

New Mexico

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 32A-5-14

- Department of Children, Youth and Families
- Agency
- Investigators approved by the department

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: §§ 32A-5-3; 32A-5-14

- Health, psychological, medical, hospital, medication, and genetic history
- Report of medical examination
- Placement history
- Physical description
- Educational achievements

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health and genetic history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 32A-5-14

- Criminal record check
 - Medical certificate
 - Capacity and readiness for parenthood
 - Employment; financial resources
 - Emotional and physical health
-

New York

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Dom. Rel. Law §§ 112; 116

- Authorized agency
- Disinterested person as approved by the court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Dom. Rel. Law § 112

- Name
- Date and place of birth
- Religion
- Medical history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Dom. Rel. Law § 112

- Health and medical history
- Hereditary diseases, if any
- Drugs or medication taken during pregnancy
- Nationality, ethnic heritage
- Religion
- Education
- Occupation
- Talents, hobbies
- Physical description

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Dom. Rel. Law §§ 112; 116

- Marital, family status
- Religion
- Occupation; income
- Finances; property owned
- Physical, mental health
- Familial, social, and emotional circumstances
- Child abuse history

North Carolina

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 48-3-205

Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 48-3-205

- Date of birth
- Birth weight
- Any information relevant to the decision to adopt or the minor's well-being
- Mental, genetic, physical, and emotional health
- Prenatal and postnatal care
- History of abuse

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 48-3-205

- Age at birth of adopted person
- Heritage
- Educational level attained
- General physical appearance
- Health status of parents and their family members (medical, mental, and genetic history)
- History of abuse (emotional, physical, or sexual)

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: §§ 48-3-303; 48-2-502

- Age, date of birth, nationality, and religious preference
- Marital and family status
- Home environment
- Physical and mental health
- Education and employment history
- Property and income
- Financial obligations
- Reasons for wanting to adopt
- Criminal background and child abuse history check

North Dakota

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 14-15-11

Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: §§ 14-15-11; 14-15.1-04

- Conditions and antecedents
- Medical and developmental history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 14-15.1-04

- Medical and social history
- Assessment of the parent's understanding and acceptance of the action

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: §§ 14-15-11; 14-15.1-04

- Suitability of home
- Criminal background check
- Emotional maturity, finances, health, and relationships
- Any other factors that reflect on ability to care for child

Northern Mariana Islands

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Tit. 8, § 1410

- Division of Youth Services or its designee
- Any qualified person or agency designated by court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Tit. 8, § 1410

Conditions and antecedents of the child

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Tit. 8, § 1408

Suitability

Ohio

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: §§ 3107.09; 3107.031

- Department of Health
- Child placement agency
- Assessor as defined in § 3107.014

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 3107.12

- Attitude toward adoption
- Physical, mental, developmental condition
- Present and anticipated needs
- Psychological background, including any prior abuse
- Determination of Indian heritage

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: §§ 3107.12; 3107.09

- Identifying data
 - Social history, including age, ethnic, racial, religious, marital, and physical characteristics
 - Educational, cultural, and work background
 - Medical history including major diseases, health problems, allergies, and ear or eye defects
 - Reasons for placing child for adoption
-

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: §§ 3107.031; 3107.032

- Suitability to adopt
 - Other information and documents as per department regulation
-

Oklahoma

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1

- Department of Human Services
- Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1

- Medical, dental, and psychological records
- Any illnesses, accidents, allergies, or birth defects
- Educational and immunization records
- Developmental history
- Any behavioral problems
- Any history of abuse
- Eligibility for subsidies

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1

- Medical, social, and psychological history
- Gynecological and obstetric history of the mother
- Consumption of drugs or alcohol by the mother
- Exposure to toxic substances
- Physical characteristics
- Medical and psychological history of relatives
- Hereditary predispositions
- Whether parents are related
- History of sexually transmitted diseases
- Circumstances leading to adoption
- Criminal conviction of abuse; neglect; abandonment of adoptee, sibling, or other biological parent

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Tit. 10, § 7505-5.3

- Suitability
- Verification that the home is a healthy, safe environment
- Marital status
- Employment; income
- Access to medical care
- Physical health and history
- Criminal background check
- Child abuse registry check

Note: Background checks apply to all members of the prospective adoptive household.

Oregon

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 109.304

- Department of Human Services
- Licensed adoption agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 109.342

- Medical history from birth to time of placement
- Any diseases, disabilities, or birth defects
- Records of any medical examinations

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 109.342

- Medical report
- Physical characteristics
- Gynecologic and obstetric report of mother
- Record of potential inheritable genetic traits and other useful information biological parents are willing to provide

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: §§ 109.304; 109.309

- Suitability
- Home meets minimum standards

Pennsylvania

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: 23 Pa. §§ 2533; 2535

- Public or voluntary child care agency
- Adoption agency
- Intermediary who arranged the adoption
- Social worker
- Person designated by court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: 23 Pa. §§ 2533; 2535

- Physical, mental, and emotional needs
- Age, sex, race
- Religious background
- Description and value of property owned

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: 23 Pa. § 2533

- Age, marital status when child was born and during the year prior to birth of adopted person
- Racial and religious background
- Residence if rights have not yet been terminated
- Medical history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: 23 Pa. §§ 2530; 2535

- Suitability
- Age
- Home environment
- Family life, parenting skills
- Physical and mental health
- Social, cultural, and religious background
- Facilities and resources
- Ability to manage resources

Puerto Rico

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Tit. 32, § 2699e

- Department of the Family
- Expert appointed by the court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Tit. 32, § 2699e

Social background

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Tit. 32, § 2699e

Social background

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Tit. 32, § 2699e

Social background

Rhode Island

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 15-7-11

- Department of Children, Youth and Families Services
- Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 15-7-2.1

- Health status and medical history at time of placement
- Genetic and social history
- Neonatal, psychological, developmental, and medical care history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 15-7-2.1

- Genetic and social history
- Medical history
- Health status
- If deceased, cause of and age at death
- Physical description
- Ethnic origins
- Religion, if any

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 15-7-11

- Suitability as parents
- Criminal background check

South Carolina

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 20-7-1750

Any person certified by the Department of Social Services

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Statute: § 20-7-1740

Medical and developmental history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Statute: § 20-7-1740

- Medical history
- Age, sex, race of birth parents and their families
- Known genetic, psychological, metabolic, or familial disorders

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: § 20-7-1740

- Suitability of home
 - Ability to care for child
 - Emotional maturity, finances, health, relationships, or other relevant characteristics
 - History of involvement in any proceeding concerning neglected, abandoned, abused, or delinquent children
 - Any adoption related counseling
-

South Dakota

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report
Statute: § 25-6.9-1

- Child placement agency
- Department of Social Services
- Certified social worker

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted
Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health, genetic, and social history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents
Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health, genetic, and social history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: §§ 25-6.9-1; 25-4-15

Criminal record check

Tennessee

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 36-1-116

- Child placement agency
- Social worker
- Department of Children Services, for indigent petitioners

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: §§ 36-1-111; 36-1-133

- Date and time of birth
- Physical characteristics at birth
- Determination of Tribal membership
- Value of any property owned or there is an interest

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 36-1-133

- Nationality, ethnic background, and religious preference
- Educational level
- Occupation; talents or hobbies
- General physical description
- Existence of other children
- Health history
- Psychological or psychiatric information

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 36-1-116

- Fitness to have care and custody of the child
- Financial ability
- Stability of home

Texas

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Fam. Code § 162.005

- Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
- Child placement agency
- Other entity that prepares report

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Fam. Code § 162.007

- Health status at time of placement
- Birth, neonatal, and other medical, psychological, and dental history
- Results of any examinations
- Immunization record
- Social history, including any relationships with birth family
- Educational history
- Genetic history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Fam. Code § 162.007

- Descriptions of birth parents and other family members
- Health and medical history, including any genetic diseases or disorders
- Health status at time of placement
- If deceased, cause of and age at death
- Physical description
- Nationality and ethnic background
- Levels of education and professional achievement
- Religious background, if any
- Psychological and social evaluations
- Any criminal record

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Fam. Code § 107.0511

Social study that meets the requirements set by the Board of Protective and Regulatory Services

Utah

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: §§ 78-30-14; 78-30-17

- Licensed child placement agency
- The Division of Child and Family Services
- Probation officer

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 78-30-17

- Detailed health history
- Genetic and social history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 78-30-14

- Reasons for placing child for adoption
- Whether the birth parents have abandoned the child or are morally unfit for custody

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 78-30-17

- Financial stability
 - Moral fitness for care, training, and supervision of the adopted person
-

Vermont

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: Tit. 15A, § 2-105

- Agency placing the minor for adoption
- Parent

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: Tit. 15A, § 2-105

- Social and health history
- Date, time, place of birth
- First and middle name
- Current health history
- Immunizations and health care received
- Any known abuse
- School performance and special education needs
- Any past or existing relationships
- Any information necessary for determining eligibility for State or Federal benefits

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: Tit. 15A, § 2-105

- Social and health history
- Genetic history; any known hereditary condition
- Use of drugs or alcohol
- Racial, ethnic, and religious background
- General physical description
- Levels and types of education
- Vocational, athletic, artistic, or scientific interests or achievements
- Date of birth and sex of any other children and whether they have been placed out of home
- Facts and circumstances related to the relinquishment of child

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents
Statute: Tit. 15A, § 2-203

- Age, date of birth
 - Nationality, race, or ethnic background
 - Religious affiliation
 - Marital status
 - Family history
 - Parenting experience
 - Physical and mental health
 - History of drug or alcohol abuse
 - Educational and employment history and special skills
 - Property, income, and debt
 - Whether there has been any abuse prevention orders
 - Any criminal convictions (other than minor traffic violations)
 - Reasons for, and attitude about adoption
-

Virgin Islands

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Not addressed in statutes reviewed

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health, genetic, and social history

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Not addressed in statutes reviewed; generally, health, genetic, and social history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: Tit. 16, § 145

Information to demonstrate sufficient ability to bring up the child and furnish suitable education and nurture to the child

Virginia

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 63.2-1208

- Director of social services
- Child placement agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 63.2-1208

- Physical and mental condition
 - Circumstances under which child came to be placed with adoptive family
 - Suitability of child for the prospective parents
-

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 63.2-1208

- Reasons for placing child for adoption
- Whether parents have abandoned the child or are morally unfit to have custody
- Physical, mental, social, and psychological history, if known

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 63.2-1208

- Financial ability
 - Moral suitability
 - Whether the parent is in satisfactory health and mental condition to care for the adopted person
-

Washington

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: §§ 26.33.190; 26.33.210

- Department
- Individual approved by the court
- Court employee
- Child placing entity

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: §§ 26.33.350; 26.33.380

- Complete medical history
- Physical exam with lab tests and x-rays
- Family background
- Chronological history of circumstances surrounding adoptive placement
- Psychiatric and/or psychological reports
- Court reports related to dependency or custody or school reports

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: §§ 26.33.350; 26.33.380

- Medical history
- Mental or physical health history
- Family background
- Social history
- Chronological history of circumstances surrounding adoptive placement

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 26.33.190

- Home environment
 - Family life
 - Health
 - Facilities
 - Resources
 - Fitness as a parent
 - Understanding of issues associated with adoption
 - Criminal background check
-

West Virginia

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 48-22-701

Any person or agency approved by the court

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: § 48-22-701

- Medical history
- Description of the adjustment of the adopted person

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: § 48-23-601

- Non-identifying written health history
- Genetic and social history of birth parents and family

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 48-22-701

- Suitability
 - Description of family members
 - Medical and employment histories
 - Physical description of home and surroundings
 - Personal references
 - Other information deemed necessary by the court
 - Criminal background check
-

Wisconsin

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: § 48.88

Child placement agency (public or private)

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: §§ 48.93; 48.425

- Medical record
- Social and genetic history
- Details of prenatal care and condition at birth
- Investigation to determine if child is proper subject for adoption

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: §§ 48.93; 48.425

- Medical and genetic history
- Report of any medical examinations
- Non-identifying social history

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 48.88

Suitability

Wyoming

Agency or Person Gathering Information or Preparing Report

Statute: §§ 1-22-111; 1-22-116

- Department of Family Services
- Authorized agency

Contents of Report About Person to be Adopted

Statute: §§ 1-22-111; 1-22-116

- Background
- Medical history, including hereditary diseases
- Any information that may be a factor influencing the adopted person's present or future health

Contents of Report About Birth Parents

Statute: §§ 1-22-111; 1-22-116

- Medical, social, and psychological background and status
- Drugs or medication taken during pregnancy

Contents of Report About Adoptive Parents

Statute: § 1-22-111

- Background
 - Suitability
-