January 29, 2023

To whom it may concern:

We hope this finds you doing well. You are receiving this letter because our records indicate that you created an adoption plan through our agency (Christian Family Life Services d.b.a. Christian Adoption Services) within the last 44 years. Due to some changes on the legislative level regarding adoption records in Minnesota, we are required to try to contact and inform all Minnesota birth parents of the following information:

As of July 1, 2024, adopted individuals born in Minnesota who are 18 or older can request their original birth records. If the adopted person is deceased, their legal representative or person related to the adopted person will be able to request the records. Noncertified copies of original birth records may also be released to a birth parent named on the original birth record, a representative of a federally recognized American Indian tribe, for the sole purpose of determining the adopted person’s eligibility for tribal enrollment or membership, or a person with a valid, certified copy of a court order that directs the release of an original birth record to them.

Currently and until June 30, 2024, access by adoptees to original birth records is governed by the preferences of the birth parent(s). Until then, a parent named on the birth record may submit an Affidavit of Disclosure or Non-disclosure form to provide or restrict access to the record by adoptees. However, all affidavits on file at Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will expire on June 30, 2024, under the new law, and an adopted person’s access to original birth records will no longer be determined by the disclosure preferences of the birth parent(s).

Birth parents may submit a Birth Parent Contact Preference form for past and future adoptions to indicate whether they would like to be contacted by the adopted person. Only birth parents named on the original birth record of an adopted person can submit the form. MDH will attach the form to the original birth record and provide it when the record is requested, on or after July 1, 2024. Birth parents may submit a new form to change their preference at any time, and MDH will destroy the old form. Regardless of the contact preference expressed by birth parents, adopted people will still be able to receive a noncertified copy of their original birth records and to initiate contact with birth parents.

If you have any questions, please call us at (701) 237 – 4473 or email us at info@CASfamily.org.

Sincerely,

A close up of a handwritten text

Description automatically generated

Jean M Nasers, LBSW, LSW

Administrator