



**CAFIS- Connecting Adopted Families Independent Services on behalf of APSE-
Adoption Partnership South East**

CAFIS provides a number of services on behalf of the Regional Adoption Agency- Adoption Partnership South East which consists of Kent, Medway and Bexley Local Authorities. This leaflet concerns:

Access to Records and Intermediary services for Adopted Adults:

These services are available to all adopted adults who live in Kent, Medway or Bexley, known as APSE. If you live outside of these areas but can show that Kent, Medway or Bexley were the Appropriate Adoption Agency (AAA) and are willing to travel to Kent to meet with us then we can also offer you a service.

Access to birth records for adopted adults

All adopted adults are entitled to receive information regarding their birth families. If you were adopted before 31st December 2005 then the information will be taken from any files and shared with you along with copies of documentation such as a medical or welfare report or copy of your adoption certificate. If you were adopted after this time then documentation regarding your birth family and the reasons for your adoption was put together at the point of your adoption, which you are entitled too, this includes a later life letter, child permanence report (CPR) and life story book. We can also assist you with obtaining a copy of your original birth certificate.

You may decide that after you have received your records/information that you would like to make contact with birth family members, birth parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents or siblings, etc. This is known as an intermediary, which we can support you with.

You may have over the years been part of on-going contact with birth family members following your adoption and feel like you know them already and you do not need to see any information regarding them. We would however suggest that you view records/information first to ensure that you are making a fully informed decision.

Intermediary Service

Whilst we can support you making contact with birth family members we unfortunately are unable to undertake searches and this would be your financial responsibility to employ a registered searcher. We can though, point you in the right direction or you may prefer to do your own research and come back to us to make contact with your birth family on your behalf. If you choose to use a searcher through us that we have directed you too we ask that you sign an agreement which agrees

to not having up to date information regarding the birth family member if they request that this information is not passed on i.e. current name and address.

Support

Before you begin your journey with us we will speak to you to and take you through the processes looking at different possible outcomes. At this point it may be that now is not the right time for you and we can support you with looking at other support that you may need including counselling. Should your referral be progressed we will need to photographically identify you including any name changes and obtain evidence of your address; and; if you are seeking an intermediary service proof of your relationship with the person you are seeking, usually through birth certificates.

Once allocated a meeting will be held with one of our experienced members of staff who will complete an assessment of your needs; they again will discuss possible outcomes to ensure that you are emotionally ready to deal with these or consider other support that you may need.

We have a duty of care to all that we come into contact with and it may be that the worker does not feel that you should begin/continue with this journey. If this is the case and you disagree with this view the worker will take you through the options that you have which will include making a complaint or if you were adopted after 31st December 2005 having your case reviewed by a panel known as the Independent Reviewing Mechanism (IRM).

There is much to consider as you think about taking your journey, and you are likely to have many questions. So call or email us and we will do our very best to answer any questions that you have whether this is about the process or information about counselling or other support. Our email address is cafiskent@barnardos.org.uk, this is our preferred method but you may also call us on 01795- 532081 your details will be put on our duty system and an experienced worker will call you to discuss your needs in more depth or how to access our services.

