Catholic
Social Services
3710 East 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508 • (907) 222-7300 • fax (907) 258-1091 • www.cssalaska.org

SERVICES FOR ADULT ADOPTEES

We are glad that you contacted Catholic Social Services (CSS). We have a number of services in place for adult adoptees and the information below describes them in detail. Please read the information through, and if you have any questions, please contact us.

1. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES MUTUAL CONSENT ADOPTION REGISTRY

Fee: **Filing Fee: $15.00**
Post Adoption Counseling $75.00 /per hour

A registry is a system to provide a means for biological relatives separated by adoption to have contact with one another. State governments, adoption agencies or search and support groups may run registries. Most registries are open to consenting adults, and require both parties to mutually and independently register before a "match" can be made.

The Catholic Social Services Mutual Consent Adoption Registry has the following requirements for participation:

a. **Completion and notarization of the two-page form entitled MUTUAL CONSENT ADOPTION REGISTRY APPLICATION.** This may be done with a notary at CSS, or elsewhere.

b. **Submitting copies of two forms of identification, one of which must be photo identification**. Examples of acceptable documents are: valid driver's license, student identification card, employment identification card, birth certificate, social security card, health insurance card, or voter's registration. (No copies of credit cards, please.)

c. **One hour of post-adoption counseling**. While it is preferable to arrange an in-person counseling session through CSS, we can arrange a phone counseling session if you live a great distance away. Payment would need to be received prior to scheduling a time for a phone counseling session. Should you prefer to obtain the one-hour post adoption counseling in your area, we can assist in finding a qualified counselor. **We would need to send the counselor our requirements for areas covered in the counseling, and then receive written verification of the one-hour counseling session.** (Please do not make an appointment with the counselor prior to receiving acceptance of the counselor's qualifications from CSS and having CSS send them an informational packet.) CSS requires the post-adoption counseling at the time of registration for compliance with our policies related to the Catholic Social Services Mutual Consent Adoption Registry. We believe that this counseling session provides the participant with an opportunity to ask questions and receive

answers about the registry, as well as various aspects of search, reunion and other post-adoption issues. Participants have the chance to explore emotions, expectations, experiences and possible outcomes of contact. Participants gain knowledge of themselves, a perspective of adoption from the other triad members' points of view (adoptive parents, birth parents, and adoptee) and are better prepared to meet the challenges and demands that contact with birth relatives entails.

d. **Receipt of appropriate fees**.

Seeking out another party- The CSS Mutual Consent Adoption Registry is passive in nature. CSS cannot provide extensive searching efforts for another party. Brief attempts will be made *if* there is current contact information on file, or if a registrant provides potential contact information that they have discovered on their own.

When there's a match- CSS does not release any information (prior to registration) as to whether one or the other party is registered. However, when a match occurs, both parties are notified that there has been a mutual registration. The CSS counselor will ask each party whether they are interested in pursuing contact. If both parties are interested, the CSS counselor will outline options available. Before any identifying information can be given, both parties must sign a waiver of confidentiality, in which they state their intention to give up the confidentiality provided under Alaska state law.

2. POST-ADOPTION COUNSELING

Fee: **$75.00 per hour**

CSS provides time limited counseling related to search, reunion and adoption issues. This would be available to an adoptee or any member of the adoptee's family. Adoptees often seek counseling related to telling their parents about their desire for information on their birth family or their desire to search. Occasionally adoptees may feel the need for counseling related to feelings of loss and/or abandonment.

3. SINGLE DOCUMENT COPY

Fee: **None**

Sometimes you may only want a single document copy (such as the labor & delivery information sheet on your birth). You may also receive a copy of an update that your birthparent may have completed.

Please make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services.**

Adoption Program
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