

IF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED
INFORMATION ABOUT CONTACTING YOUR ADOPTED CHILDREN IN THE
FUTURE

There are steps you can take that may allow you to have contact with your child in the future, and in particular after he or she becomes an adult.

You must keep the California State Department of Social Services informed of your address changes so that you can be found in response to a request from your adult child or if there is a medical necessity or other extraordinary circumstances to justify the disclosure. (Family Code sec. 9203.) You must use the Consent for Contact form, AD 904 (10/09), attached hereto and have it notarized or witnessed by a representative of the California Department of Social Services or a licensed California adoption agency. The State Department of Social Services website has information and forms. Go to www.childsworld.ca.gov and click on the link on the left for CFSD adoption. Select the link for "Frequently Asked Questions on How to Obtain Information about your Adoption" and you will find a section on "I am a Birth Parent. How Can I Make Contact with My Child?"

You can also obtain forms and information by contacting:

California Department of Social Services
Adoptions Support Unit
744 P Street, MS 8-12-31
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 651-8088

In addition, the Department the department or licensed adoption agency responsible for the adoptive placement of your child is required to send you a written notice that contains the following statement:

(a) You are encouraged to keep the department or this agency informed of your current address in order to permit a response to any inquiry concerning medical or social history made by or on behalf of the child who was the subject of the court action terminating parental rights.

(b) Section 9203 of the Family Code authorizes a person who has been adopted and who attains the age of 21 years to make a request to the State Department of Social Services, or the licensed adoption agency, that joined in the adoption petition, for the name and address of the adoptee's birth parents. Indicate . . . whether or not you wish your name and address to be disclosed."
(Family Code sec.8703.)

It is important that you keep these offices informed of your current address each time you move so that your children can find you when they become adults. Please note that the above information is the law in effect at this time and it may change over the years as your son or daughter becomes an adult. The most important thing you can do is keep the Department informed of your whereabouts if you change addresses.