

# Colorado law reunites adult adoptees with willing parents

DEAR ABBY: Everyone in the adoption triangle — the adoptee, his or her biological parents and his or her adoptive parents — has rights and interests to be protected. Adopted people, at least as adults, have a right to know the facts of their birth, medical history and biological heritage. Adoptive parents have a right to feel secure in their relationship with the children they choose to raise. Birth mothers and fathers have a privacy right to respect.

Neither completely "closed" nor "open" records can balance these sometimes competing interests. We know that closing adoption records to adult adoptees, who have a right to know, does not stop their need and desire to seek out their birth parents. We also know that simply opening the records will not assure good relations between long-separated natural parents and children.

Colorado found a way recently to balance these interests. In 1989, I successfully sponsored House Bill 1177 to create a "confidential intermediary" appointed by the district court to review formerly "closed" adoption records for adult adoptees. The confidential intermediary then acts as a go-between in contacting the birth parents. If the natural parents want to contact their birth child, the "C.I." sets up a meeting for them. If no contact is desired, the "C.I." respects their right to privacy and closes the files once again. Colorado is the first state to legislatively balance these interests.

Giving a child up for adoption to a loving, caring family is no longer

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VAN BUREN



considered a social stigma. Rather, for everyone involved, it is a sign of love and compassion.

STEVE RUDDICK, COLORADO  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEAR LUCKY: I agree, adopted children should have the chance to meet their biological parents if they wish to, but I wonder how many people are aware that adopted children and biological parents can register with International Soundex Reunion Registry, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, Nev. 89702. The children must be of legal age (legal age varies from state to state).

If both parties are registered and want to find each other, a match is made. Interested parties must send a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope to the above address to request Soundex forms. There is no charge for this service.

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