

Dear Abby

Biological parents, adoptees can be reunited via registry

DEAR ABBY: The week of Nov. 19-25 is National Adoption Week. Because of the positive attitude you have expressed toward adoption, you have the potential to influence the attitudes of millions of people.

Will you kindly publish a particularly meaningful letter concerning adoption?

— **NEDRA RANDOLPH**
ADOPTION COUNSELOR

DEAR NEDRA: With pleasure.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter just turned 10. On her birthday, I shed a few tears. I wish I could have held her and told her all the things a mother should tell her daughter when she turns 10. I wish I could have dressed her up and put ribbons in her hair.

I also said a little prayer of thanks for having made the decision 10 years ago to give her up for adoption. I was barely 16 and wanted my daughter to have a better life than I could have given her.

I pray my daughter realizes that it was not for lack of love that I gave her up, but because my love was brave and mature enough to let her go when I was but a child myself.

I pray that when she is 18, she will decide to look me up through an adoption search group and we



Abby
Van Buren

will meet again. The last time I held her tiny hand, she was only 10 days old.

Until then, my thoughts and prayers are with her and her parents.

— **HOPEFUL**

DEAR HOPEFUL: Are you aware that biological parents can register with International Soundex Reunion Registry, P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, Nev. 89702?

Adopted children may also register, and when they become legal age, if both parties are registered and want to find each other, a match is made.

Send a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope to the above registry, requesting Soundex forms.

I have dealt with the people at the registry for many years and have found them to be efficient, honest and in total agreement with my feelings that neither the identity of the birth parents nor the adopted child shall be disclosed unless both parties are agreeable to a reunion.