
Adoption Registry-Confidential-Intermediary Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Friday, February 25, 2022

Present: Kristen Nolen (co-chair), Sylvia Fonseca (co-chair), Barbara Sereda, Linda Coon, Marsha Raynes, Barbara Greenspan, Michelle Hughes, Christina Schneider, Dawn Saphir, Emily Archer, Alexandra Hernandez, Ellie Nicol, Phyllis Harris

Discussion:

I. Welcome/Introduction to new Co-Chair Kristen Nolen

- The new Co-Chair Kristen Nolen introduced herself to the council. Kristen shared her contact information with the council: email address: Kristen.N.Nolen@jllinois.gov, Adoption Registry Phone Number: 877-323-5299, Direct Line: 217-558-7287.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the September 24, 2021 meeting were reviewed, motion made to approve the minutes by Barbara Sereda with correction of switching Emily Archer and Victoria Beard names under the Program Updates, motion seconded by Christina Schneider, motion passed.

III. Confidential Intermediary Program Update

- Emily Archer gave Confidential Intermediary Program information update (see attached report).

IV. Adoption Registry Program Update

- Kristen Nolen gave Adoption Registry Program update (see attached report). Kristen stated that she is hopeful that in March she will receive an update concerning the filling of vacant positions. Kristen worked hard in January to clear up the backlog and processing of 2022 request. The request were not tracked when they were received in 2021, they were being tracked when they were completed.
- Barbara Sereda requested that Original Birth Certificate (OBC) progress is tracked by year so that the council case see trends. Kristen stated that she will try to put this together for the next meeting.

V. Mandatory Trainings

- **Sylvia Fonseca reminded the council about the mandatory trainings that are due every year; Ethics, Harassment & Discrimination Training. She informed the council that an email with instructions will be sent out when the trainings are due. Sylvia or her assistant, Phyllis Harris will send out information concerning the new mandatory training: Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training.**
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VI. Keep Contact Information Updated

- **Sylvia Fonseca asked the council to please keep their contact information updated.**

VII. Discussion/Open Forum

- **Barbara Sereda informed the council about Senate Bill 3130. Senate Bill 3130 expands the CI Program for former youth in care. The bill passed the Senate and is currently in the House. Barbara will send a link to the bill and provide an update to the council when it is available.**

VIII. Next Meeting: Friday, September 30, 2022 11am-12pm 1911 S Indiana Avenue Room 1015/1016, WebEx

Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois

Service Information: January – December 2021

Volume of Orders of Appointment

- The number of new Orders entered by the Courts was lower than in the past. It is unknown whether this is due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, or whether other factors (such as the use of commercial DNA services) are contributing to the lower number of new Orders in the 2021 calendar year.

Types of Petitioners

- Adult Adoptees remain the largest category of petitioners. Exact numbers of the petitioner types served are included on the Service Statistics document.

Number of Searches Requested

- The majority of petitioners do not request more than three separate searches. There continue to be some petitioners who request five or more individual searches, but not many. Those individuals are typically adoptees who request a search beyond the birth parents either due to the birth parents being deceased or denying contact.

Staffing

- There are currently four Certified Confidential Intermediaries on staff. The CI Program Coordinator carries a 75-80% caseload; one CI carries a 100% caseload; one CI carries a 50% caseload; the Direct Service Coordinator carries a very small caseload.

Electronic Filing

- As of July 1, 2018, petitioners must now electronically file their petitions with the Court to request Intermediary service (rather than mailing the petition to the Court). It does not appear that this change has significantly impacted the number of new appointments received.

Commercial DNA Services

- We have seen an increase in the number of adoptees and birth relatives who have used commercial DNA services in the hopes of connecting to birth relatives and/or learning more about birth family history. It is unclear whether the use of commercial DNA services has impacted the number of new appointments received.

Fees and Penalties

- No fees or penalties were collected in the 2021 calendar year.

Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois

Service Statistics: January – December 2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New Orders of Appointment Entered	156	136	101	47	65
Number of Individual Petitioners Who Received Service	841	648	639	435	431
Number of Individual Found Relatives Who Received Service	343	245	225	166	120
Cases Completed and Closed	161	100	137	77	73
<i>Adopted Person</i>	112	64	82	49	34
<i>Surrendered Person</i>	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Adoptive Parent</i>	1	2	1	0	3
<i>Legal Guardian</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Birth Parent</i>	18	15	23	9	15
<i>Adult Child of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	18	8	14	9	9
<i>Adult Grandchild of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	2	2	1	1	2
<i>Adoptive Parent of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Legal Guardian of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Spouse of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Adult Birth Sibling of an Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	8	7	16	8	10
<i>Birth Grandparent of an Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Adult Sibling of a Deceased Birth Parent</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Searches Requested (In Cases Closed)	209	251	269	210	183

Search Outcomes

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Exchanged ID Information	23.41%	27.07%	26.67%	19.13%
Anonymous Correspondence Only	01.19%	01.88%	00.95%	02.73%
Refused Participation	19.84%	16.17%	18.57%	18.03%
Found to be Deceased	17.46%	12.41%	16.19%	15.85%
Presumed Located; No Response	10.32%	10.15%	10.95%	16.40%
Not Located	15.48%	16.17%	11.43%	13.66%
Other Outcome	12.30%	16.17%	15.24%	14.20%

***Presumed Located; No Response** – the sought-after individual signed to receive a certified letter, or we were able to confirm their contact information by other means, but they never responded to the outreach attempts*

***Not Located** – we were unable to find contact information for the sought-after individual or we made outreach attempts, but were never able to confirm their contact information*

***Other Outcome** – any other outcome not included; the petitioner connected to the sought-after relative by other means, the petitioner requested the search end, etc.*

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS ADOPTION REGISTRY AND MEDICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE (IARMIE)
PROCESSING AND ISSUING ACTIVITIES – 2021 Year End Report

ACTIVITIES - 2021	TOTAL
Administrative records of foreign births	22
Confidential Intermediary requests	89
IARMIE registrations	256
Illinois adoptions sent to state of birth	171
New or amended birth records per adoption	2,998

Adopted Person OBC requests	CUMULATIVE since 5/1/10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued intact • Issued redacted • Not found 	19,958 119 382
Birth Parent OBC request	CUMULATIVE since 1/1/15
	420
Birth Parent Preference form received *	CUMULATIVE since 1/1/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • selected Option A • selected Option B • selected Option C • selected Option D • selected Option E • submitted medical questionnaire forms 	899 34 30 5 490 1,216
Match Notifications **	CUMULATIVE since 11/15/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OBC requestors notified of a match 	382

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 Option A – provides current contact info and allows for release of obc intact
 Option B – provides 3rd party contact info and allows for release of obc intact
 Option C – provides contact via CI or adoption agency and allows for release of obc intact
 Option D – provides that birth parent does NOT want contact and allows for release of obc intact
 Option E – provides that birth parent does NOT want contact and wants his/her info redacted
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Notifications sent to OBC requestors of a match to another OBC requestor or IARMIE registrant (NOT Birth Parent Preference form matches)