
Adoption Registry-Confidential Intermediary Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Friday, September 30, 2022

Location: WebEx:
<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m913b15ed4f027bcd399aa0a9d64fca1c>
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022
Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Present: Sylvia Fonseca (co-chair), Angela Dennison, Jane Lewis, Barbara Sereda, Linda Coon, Marsha Raynes, Nina Friedman, Melisha Mitchell, Barbara Greenspan, Senator Sara Feigenholtz, Dawn Saphir, Emily Archer, Phyllis Harris

Agenda details:

I. Welcome/Roll Call

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the February 25, 2022 meeting were reviewed; motion made to approve the minutes by Barbara Sereda and seconded by Barbara Greenspan.

III. Confidential Intermediary Program Update

- Emily Archer gave Confidential Intermediary Program Information update (see attached report).
- Nina Friedman recommended that additional members who can use the service be added as the petitioner types.
- Senator Sara Feigenholtz asked if we should amend to add birth grandchild.

IV. Adoption Registry Program Update

- Angela Dennison gave Adoption Registry Program update (see attached report).
- Senator Sara Feigenholtz informed the council that it was impossible to access forms and that links were dead on the website.
- Angela Dennison stated that she will speak with Nadine O'Leary to find out who she needs to speak to in order to make it clearer so people can locate the forms and make the website more user friendly.

- It was confirmed that the 1800 number does work.
- Barbara Sereda asked if the report could show trends of the access of OBC's over the years, in order to determine if needs and expectations are being met.

V. Update: Senate Bill 3130- Adoption-Search and Reunion

- The council was informed that Senate Bill 3130 has passed and was signed into law. It will become effective July 2023.

VI. Status on Mandatory Trainings

- The council was reminded to remember to send copies of certificates when they have completed the trainings.

VII. Discussion/Open Forum

VIII. Next Meeting: Friday, February 24, 2023 11am-12pm

Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois

Service Information: January – June 2022

Volume of Orders of Appointment

- The number of new Orders entered by the Courts continues to be lower. We hypothesize this could be due to the continuing pandemic which may have prioritized other aspects of life over the desire or need to search for birth relatives, the use of commercial DNA services through which individuals are making connections without agency assistance, and/or other factors unknown to us at this time.

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. We hypothesize that the use of commercial DNA services has impacted the number of new appointments received; however, we do not have direct data to prove or verify this hypothesis.

Fees and Penalties

- No fees or penalties were collected in the first half of the 2022 calendar year.

Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois

Service Statistics: January – June 2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 *
New Orders of Appointment Entered	136	101	47	65	24
Number of Individual Petitioners Who Received Service	648	639	435	431	257
Number of Individual Found Relatives Who Received Service	245	225	166	120	69
Cases Completed and Closed	100	137	77	73	31
<i>Adopted Person</i>	64	82	49	34	19
<i>Surrendered Person</i>	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Adoptive Parent</i>	2	1	0	3	1
<i>Legal Guardian</i>	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Birth Parent</i>	15	23	9	15	6
<i>Adult Child of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	8	14	9	9	2
<i>Adult Grandchild of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	2	1	1	2	0
<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>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Adult Birth Sibling of an Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	7	16	8	10	3
<i>Birth Grandparent of an Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Adult Sibling of a Deceased Birth Parent</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Searches Requested (In Cases Closed)	251	269	210	183	104

Search Outcomes

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Exchanged ID Information	23.41%	27.07%	26.67%	19.13%	14.43%
Anonymous Correspondence Only	01.19%	01.88%	00.95%	02.73%	03.85%
Refused Participation	19.84%	16.17%	18.57%	18.03%	20.19%
Found to be Deceased	17.46%	12.41%	16.19%	15.85%	12.50%
Presumed Located; No Response	10.32%	10.15%	10.95%	16.40%	19.23%
Not Located	15.48%	16.17%	11.43%	13.66%	18.27%
Other Outcome	12.30%	16.17%	15.24%	14.20%	11.53%

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, the petitioner was only seeking medical information and was not interested in a connection, etc.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS ADOPTION REGISTRY AND MEDICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE (IARMIE)
PROCESSING AND ISSUING ACTIVITIES – 2022 Mid-Year Report (January – May 2022)

ACTIVITIES - 2022	TOTAL
Administrative records of foreign births	50
Confidential intermediary requests	21
IARMIE registrations	90
Illinois adoptions sent to state of birth	58
New or amended birth records per adoption	1248

Adopted Person OBC requests	CUMULATIVE since 5/1/10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued intact Issued redacted Not found 	20,718 120 384
Birth Parent OBC request	CUMULATIVE since 1/1/15
	433
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 	903 34 30 5 490 1,220
Match Notifications **	CUMULATIVE since 11/15/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OBC requestors notified of a match 	382

*

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 (**NOI** Birth Parent Preference form matches)