

Search Assistance



Searching for birth family is a personal and important life event that is unique to each individual. Adoption Network Cleveland is an experienced, trusted, reliable search resource for adult adoptees, birthparents, birth siblings and others who are interested in searching for family.

Who Can Search?

Adoptees, birthparents, siblings, adoptive parents on behalf of their minor child, other relatives, and individuals who have been donor conceived or have misrepresented parentage.

Services Provided

- Private, personalized consultation and guidance.
- Direction on navigating public and private organizations to obtain non-identifying information and legal documents.
- Staff utilize information gathered from multiple reliable and safe paid subscription sites and resources and use expertise to interpret available information.
- Assistance with searches involving DNA including:
 - Direction developing a testing plan to best utilize time, money and available resources.
 - How to understand results.
 - Insight into possible relationships based on shared DNA.
 - Guidance on how to make contact with matches in a respectful way that will improve chances of a positive response.
- Coaching and support in making contact with found relatives.
- Personalized guidance and support post reunion or completion of search.

Benefits of Searching with Adoption Network Cleveland

- More than 30 years of experience assisting with searches.
- Holistic, inclusive approach that is respectful of all parties involved.
- Leader in legislative changes regarding adoption law in Ohio, including access to original birth certificates for adult adoptees.
- Professional approach with well-trained staff held to high standards with accountability to the organization.
- Professional, personalized coaching approach.

Adoption Network Cleveland



THE OHIO FAMILY CONNECTION
Advocate • Educate • Support

Founded in 1988, Adoption Network Cleveland is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to connect and empower individuals, organizations and communities impacted by adoption and foster care and to provide a source of healing for those in need.

Organizational Expertise

- More than 30 years of experience assisting thousands of completed searches.
- Involved in all legislative changes regarding adoption law in Ohio since 1988, including spearheading the legislation for Ohio adult adoptees to access their original birth certificates.
- Well respected as a leader in the adoption community.
- Membership in the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Staff Expertise

- Shared experience as a member of the adoption triad.
- Extensive training on genealogical searches and interpreting DNA results.
- Thorough first-hand experience regarding use of direct to consumer DNA testing kits from Ancestry, 23 & Me, My Heritage, FTDNA and Gedmatch.
- Professional, positive reputation in the adoption community.
- Upholds the Association of Professional Genealogists' Code of Ethics and Professional Practices (www.apgen.org/ethics/index.html).

Join Our Community

Adoption Network Cleveland asks that individuals who search join the organization as a member.

For information on membership, visit: bit.ly/JoinANC.

Additional Resources

If you are thinking about completing a search, we recommend you attend a General Discussion Meeting, which provides a safe setting where members of the adoption constellation can receive support and learn from others' perspectives. General Discussion Meetings are available monthly in multiple locations in the state of Ohio and in an online, virtual setting. For locations, times and dates, please visit: www.adoptionnetwork.org/news-events/our-calendar.html.



For more information

Traci Onders, Search Specialist
Program Coordinator, Adult Adoptees and Birthparents
traci.onders@adoptionnetwork.org
(216) 482-2323

4614 Prospect Ave., Suite 550
Cleveland, Ohio 44103
(216) 325-1000
www.adoptionnetwork.org



@AdoptionNetCLE