

MEETING MINUTES

ADOPTION REGISTRY-CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Date: February 23, 2024

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

PRESENT

Sylvia Fonseca (co-chair), Philip Somer (co-chair), Elizabeth Gonzalez (co-chair), Barbara Sereda, Marsha Raynes, Nina Friedman, Melisha Mitchell, Barbara Greenspan, Michelle Hughes, Jane Turner, Senator Sara Feigenhotz, Emily Archer, Lakisha Watts, Phyllis Harris

ABSENT

Bob Gilligan, Linda Coon, Alexa Vander Hye, Kathryn Marker, Christina Schneider, Dawn Saphir

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from last meeting was distributed and reviewed before today's meeting. In today's meeting, Barbara Sereda made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Barbara Greenspan.

REPORTS

Confidential Intermediary Program Report

- Report delivered by Emily Archer.

Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange Report

- Report delivered by Elizabeth Gonzalez and Philip Somers.

MANDATORY TRAININGS

Sylvia Fonseca reminded council members to complete mandatory trainings by June 30, 2024.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Discussion concerning category of individuals that should be served by the CI Program.
- Discussion concerning age parity disparity.
- Discussion concerning wait time for birth certificates.
- Discussion concerning DNA test availability.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting will be held on September 27, 2024.

Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois

Service Information: January – December 2023

Volume of Orders of Appointment

- The number of new Orders entered by the Courts continues to be lower than previous years. We hypothesize this could be due to an increase in successful independent searches by individuals based on OBC information, an increased use of commercial DNA services through which individuals are making connections with birth relatives, and/or other factors unknown to us at this time.

Types of Petitioners

- Adult Adoptees remain the largest category of petitioners. The exact numbers of the petitioner types served are included in the Service Statistics section of this report.

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. *Of note, the CI Program Coordinator was on a leave of absence from April 3 through July 5. During that time, CI cases were distributed among the other Certified Confidential Intermediaries.*

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 2023 calendar year.

Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois

Service Statistics: January – December 2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Orders of Appointment Entered	136	101	47	65	33	38
Number of Individual Petitioners Who Received Service	648	639	435	431	395	296
Number of Individual Found Relatives Who Received Service	245	225	166	120	85	42
Cases Completed and Closed	100	137	77	73	50	46
Adopted Person	64	82	49	34	26	21
Surrendered Person	0	0	1	0	0	0
Adoptive Parent	2	1	0	3	1	1
Legal Guardian	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birth Parent	15	23	9	15	13	10
Adult Child of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person	8	14	9	9	5	6
Adult Grandchild of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person	2	1	1	2	0	0
Adoptive Parent of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Guardian of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spouse of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Birth Sibling of an Adopted or Surrendered Person	7	16	8	10	4	8
Birth Grandparent of an Adopted or Surrendered Person	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Sibling of a Deceased Birth Parent	0	0	0	0	1	0
Searches Requested (In Cases Closed)	251	269	210	183	169	80

Search Outcomes

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Exchanged ID Information	23.41%	27.07%	26.67%	19.13%	17.16%	36.25%
Anonymous Correspondence Only	01.19%	01.88%	00.95%	02.73%	02.37%	01.25%
Refused Participation	19.84%	16.17%	18.57 %	18.03%	22.49%	15.00%
Found to be Deceased	17.46%	12.41%	16.19%	15.85%	11.24%	11.25%
Presumed Located; No Response	10.32%	10.15%	10.95%	16.40%	20.12%	10.00%
Not Located	15.48%	16.17%	11.43%	13.66%	15.98%	22.50%
Other Outcome	12.30%	16.17%	15.24%	14.20%	10.65%	03.75%

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.

**Search Outcomes of Adoptees Seeking Birth Parents
January – December 2023**

	2023	
	Birth Mother (12 searches)	Birth Father (8 searches)
Exchanged ID Information	41.67%	---
Anonymous Correspondence Only	---	---
Refused Participation	25.00%	25.00%
Found to be Deceased	33.33%	12.50%
Presumed Located; No Response	---	---
Not Located	---	62.50%
Other Outcome	---	---

Adoptee's Year of Birth by Search Outcome

Sought-After Birth Parent	Outcome	Year of Adoptee's Birth
Birth Mother	Exchanged ID Information	1957
		1961
		1966
		1973
		1992
	Refused Participation	1959
		1966
		1998
	Found to be Deceased	1942
		1970
		1972
		1975
Birth Father	Refused Participation	1961
		1970
	Found to be Deceased	1969
		1942
	Not Located	1950
		1972
		1973
		1976

STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS ADOPTION REGISTRY AND MEDICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE (IARMIE)
PROCESSING AND ISSUING ACTIVITIES - 2023

ACTIVITIES	1 ST QUARTER	2 ND QUARTER	3 RD QUARTER	4 TH QUARTER	TOTAL
Administrative records of foreign births	0	0	0	2	2
Confidential intermediary requests	14	24	15	12	65
IARMIE registrations	100	56	40	42	238
Illinois adoptions sent to state of birth	42	36	25	20	123
New or amended birth records per adoption	619	824	836	919	3198

Adopted Person OBC requests	1 ST QUARTER	2 ND QUARTER	3 RD QUARTER	4 TH QUARTER	TOTAL	CUMULATIVE since 5/1/10
• Issued intact	146	181	109	81	517	21377
• Issued redacted	0	2	1	0	3	123
• Not found	4	5	1	5	15	408
Birth Parent OBC request						CUMULATIVE since 1/1/15
	8	12	4	6	30	487
Birth Parent Preference form received *						CUMULATIVE since 1/1/11
• selected Option A	14	7	3	2	26	947
• selected Option B	2	0	0	1	3	37
• selected Option C	3	0	0	2	5	38
• selected Option D	0	0	0	0	0	5
• selected Option E	0	0	0	0	0	488
• submitted medical questionnaire forms	10	3	4	3	21	1248
Match Notifications **						CUMULATIVE since 11/15/11
• OBC requestors notified of a match	9	21	8	8	46	448

*

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)