

Adoption Registry-Confidential Intermediary Advisory Council

**Meeting Minutes for Friday, September 24, 2021**

**Present:** Sylvia Fonseca: co-chair, Victoria Beard: co-chair, Phyllis Harris, Emily Archer, Barbara Greenspan, Christina Schneider, Jane Turner, Marsha Raynes, Michelle Hughes, Nina Friedman, Sen. Sara Feigenholtz, Melisha Mitchell, Barbara Sereda

**Discussion**

**I. Minutes**

- Minutes from the February 26, 2021 meeting were reviewed, motion made to approve the minutes by Barbara Sereda with correction of the spelling of IRAMIE to IARMIE, motion seconded by Michelle Hughes, motion passed.

**II. Confidential Intermediary Program Update**

- Emily Archer reported electronic filing is going smoothly and gave Confidential Intermediary Program information (see attached report).

**III. Adoption Registry Program Update**

- Victoria Beard reported on the Adoption Registry program (see attached report).

**IV. Discussion/Open Forum**

- Victoria Beard informed the members this was her last meeting, she is retiring at the end of December. She did not know who would be replacing her but hoped to be available to assist the new person.
- There was discussion regarding having set meeting times to provide all with enough advance notice given their responsibilities. Members decided to have meetings held on the last Friday of February and September. Reminder notice will be sent out.
- Sylvia reported the need to have all reports submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January and July for distribution to Council members by January 31<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> of each Calendar year based on legislation.

**V. Next Meeting:** February 25, 2022 11am-12pm, WebEx

## **Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois**

### **Service Information: January – June 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 are contributing to the number of new Orders in the first six months of the 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 to date.

**Confidential Intermediary Service of Illinois**

**Service Statistics: January – June 2021**

|                                                                     | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>New Orders of Appointment Entered</b>                            | 156  | 136  | 101  | 47   | 29   |
| <b>Number of Individual Petitioners Who Received Service</b>        | 841  | 648  | 639  | 435  | 244  |
| <b>Number of Individual Found Relatives Who Received Service</b>    | 343  | 245  | 225  | 166  | 82   |
| <b>Cases Completed and Closed</b>                                   | 161  | 100  | 137  | 77   | 34   |
| <i>Adopted Person</i>                                               | 112  | 64   | 82   | 49   | 16   |
| <i>Surrendered Person</i>                                           | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| <i>Adoptive Parent</i>                                              | 1    | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| <i>Legal Guardian</i>                                               | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| <i>Birth Parent</i>                                                 | 18   | 15   | 23   | 9    | 5    |
| <i>Adult Child of a Deceased Adopted or Surrendered Person</i>      | 18   | 8    | 14   | 9    | 7    |
| <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    | 4    |
| <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    |
| <b>Searches Requested (In Cases Closed)</b>                         | 209  | 251  | 269  | 210  | 77   |

**Search Outcomes**

|                                      | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Exchanged ID Information</b>      | 23.41% | 27.07% | 26.67% | 23.38% |
| <b>Anonymous Correspondence Only</b> | 01.19% | 01.88% | 00.95% | 02.60% |
| <b>Refused Participation</b>         | 19.84% | 16.17% | 18.57% | 16.88% |
| <b>Found to be Deceased</b>          | 17.46% | 12.41% | 16.19% | 12.99% |
| <b>Presumed Located; No Response</b> | 10.32% | 10.15% | 10.95% | 18.18% |
| <b>Not Located</b>                   | 15.48% | 16.17% | 11.43% | 14.29% |
| <b>Other Outcome</b>                 | 12.30% | 16.17% | 15.24% | 11.68% |

***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 – Through June of 2021**

| ACTIVITIES - 2021                         | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|
| Administrative records of foreign births  | 17    |
| Confidential intermediary requests        | 52    |
| IARMIE registrations                      | 153   |
| Illinois adoptions sent to state of birth | 74    |
| New or amended birth records per adoption | 1,615 |

| Adopted Person OBC requests                                                                                                                                                                                                                | CUMULATIVE since 5/1/10              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued intact</li> <li>• Issued redacted</li> <li>• Not found</li> </ul>                                                                                                                          | 19,880<br>118<br>378                 |
| Birth Parent OBC request                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | CUMULATIVE since 1/1/15              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 412                                  |
| Birth Parent Preference form received *                                                                                                                                                                                                    | CUMULATIVE since 1/1/11              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• selected Option A</li> <li>• selected Option B</li> <li>• selected Option C</li> <li>• selected Option D</li> <li>• selected Option E</li> <li>• submitted medical questionnaire forms</li> </ul> | 876<br>32<br>30<br>5<br>487<br>1,167 |
| Match Notifications **                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | CUMULATIVE since 11/15/11            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OBC requestors notified of a match</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     | 375                                  |

- \* Option A – provides current contact info and allows for release of obc intact
- Option B – provides 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

\*\* Notifications sent to OBC requestors of a match to another OBC requestor or IARMIE registrant (NOT Birth Parent Preference form matches)

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"> <li>• Issued intact</li> <li>• Issued redacted</li> <li>• Not found</li> </ul>                                                                                                                          | 19,958<br>119<br>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"> <li>• selected Option A</li> <li>• selected Option B</li> <li>• selected Option C</li> <li>• selected Option D</li> <li>• selected Option E</li> <li>• submitted medical questionnaire forms</li> </ul> | 899<br>34<br>30<br>5<br>490<br>1,216 |
| Match Notifications **                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | CUMULATIVE since 11/15/11            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OBC requestors notified of a match</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                     | 382                                  |

\*

- Option A -- provides current contact info and allows for release of obc intact
- Option B -- provides 3<sup>rd</sup> party contact info and allows for release of obc intact
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