

"To Search or Not to Search...That is the Question"

Audrey R. Derevenko, LCSW
Coordinator of Permanency Planning
Services
Children's Aid Society





Purpose of Workshop

- How often have you heard, "When I get out of care I'm going to go find my family, and there is nothing you can do to stop me"?
- To assist caseworkers, therapists, and other professionals in gaining skills and resources to enable a client to appropriately handle a search and contact for their biological family.

Misconceptions...Searches are for
People Only

NO!

WRONG!

Reasons to Search



- Obtain Information
- For Contact

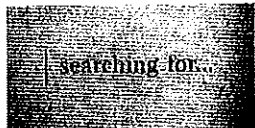
Information That Can Be Obtained

- Medical History
- Information about the "whys" of your adoption plan
- Information about your birth family



What is a Non-Identifying Information Report?

- It is a report that contains vital family and medical history.
- It also discusses why your adoption plan was made.



Non-Identifying Information Report

- Information about self and birth family
- Medical information
- Pieces of the Puzzle of Adoptee's Life



How to Get Information

- Contact the agency that handled your adoption plan and request your **Non-Identifying Information Background Summary**
- Obtain original birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics



Reasons to Search



- Obtain Information
- For Contact

Why Consider Contact?

- To gather more information.
- To meet birth parents.



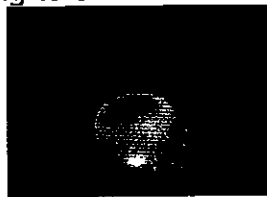
General Guidelines for Searching



- TV and "The Locator" do not portray reality
- Have realistic boundaries and expectations.

Guidelines for an Adult Adoptee Wanting to Search

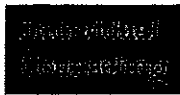
facebook



- Use a mediator!!
- Go to a face-to-face support group

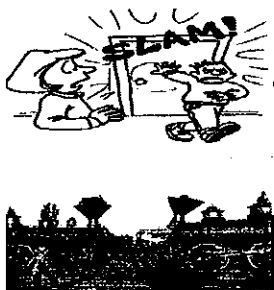
Guidelines for a Birth Parent Wanting to Search

- Use a mediator or counselor to discuss what your expectations of what the relationship with your child will be like.
- Keep files updated!!



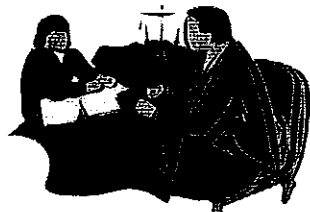
Mediation...

Why Use a Mediator?



Resources for both Birthparents and Adult Adoptees

■ Counseling



CHILDREN'S AID
SOCIETY

Resources for both Birthparents and Adult Adoptees



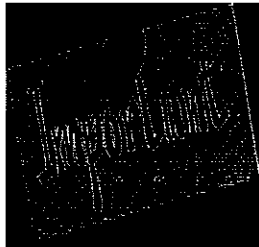
CHILDREN'S AID
SOCIETY

■ Support Groups

- CAS offers a support group to birth parents and adult adoptees. Contact Audrey at 205-943-5343

3 Things to Tell Adult Adoptees and Birth Parents

- Always start with the agency that handled your adoption plan.
- Birth Parents- Update files often with contact information and medical information
- Use a mediator!



Questions and Comments

