

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY
ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

IN RE: ADOPTION No.: _____, _____

PETITION FOR RELEASE OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Petition under Section 2905 (b) of the Adoption Act:

1. Name of Petitioner: _____
2. Address: _____
(Street name & number, city & state w/ zip code)
3. Phone number: (H) _____ (W) _____

ADOPTEE INFORMATION

4. Name of Adoptee: _____
5. Address of Adoptee: _____
(Street name & number, city, state w/ zip code)
6. Phone number: (H) _____ (W) _____
7. Date of Birth of Adoptee: _____
8. Relationship of Petitioner to Adoptee: _____
9. Reasons for desiring to contact birth parent(s): _____

I, _____, understand that I am requesting the release to me of identifying information relating to the above adoption. I understand that identifying information may be released to me only with the consent of the living birth parent(s) and that if a birth parent is deceased, identifying information may be released regarding the deceased parent. **NO** information may be released regarding a living birth parent who **does not consent I understand that records vary a great deal and some records may contain more extensive information than others.** I understand that the reasons why my desire to contact the birth parent(s) will be disclosed to them if contacted. I understand that the Court may refuse to contact the birth parent(s) if it believes that, under the circumstances, there would be a substantial risk that persons other than the birth parent(s) would learn of the adoptee's existence and relationship to the birth parent(s). I understand that the Courts will appoint someone to make a reasonable effort to contact the birth parent(s), if possible, as its designated agent.

WHEREFORE, the petition prays your Honorable Court for the release of identifying information.

_____, 20_____
(Petitioner) (Date)

I hereby authorize the release of the following identifying information upon the request of my birth parent(s).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
(Street name & number, city, state w/ zip code)

PHONE NO.: _____ WORK: _____

DATE: _____, 20_____

(Signature)

VERIFICATION

I, _____, verify that I am the Petitioner named in the foregoing Petition and that the facts set forth herein are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that false statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 PA. C.S.A. Section 4940 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

(Petitioner)

Lackawanna County
Register of Wills / Clerk of Orphans' Court
Scranton Electric Building
507 Linden Street
Suite 400
Scranton Pa 18503-1632

Linda Munley
Register of Wills /
Clerk of Orphans' Court

Frances Kovaleski
Deputy Register

Jane Carlonas
Solicitor

**RE: Petition for Release of Limited Information
And/or Identifying Information Procedure**

Dear _____,

It is my understanding that you are interested in learning information regarding your biological parents. Lackawanna County Orphans' Court has established procedures to handle such requests. The following outlines those procedures.

If you file a petition and the court approves it, you are entitled to non-identifying information (e.g., nationality, region etc.) from the file, provided it is available in the file. If you are interested in receiving this information, please fill out the enclosed PETITION for RELEASE OF LIMITED INFORMATION and mail it with a check for \$50.00 made *payable* to "Clerk of the Orphans' Court:

In addition, if you wish to initiate a search for your birth parents to obtain their consent to release their identity, the PETITION FOR RELEASE OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION must be completed and filed with a service fee of \$150.00 made *payable* to the "Clerk of the Orphans' Court.

Please understand that a legal obligation of confidentiality prevents me from doing anything other than what has already be stated. Please feel free to call if you have any questions regarding the petitions or the procedure.

Once we receive your petition and check we'll forward that information to the Court for further review. If the Court approves the petition, it will then be forwarded to an investigator. This process can take several months to complete if not longer.

Respectfully,

Frances Kovaleski