



Providing Adoptive Parents With Information About Adoptees and Their Birth Families

When prospective adoptive parents are provided information about the health, behavioral health, developmental, educational, and social histories about the child they hope to adopt, they are better able to make informed decisions about whether they are emotionally and financially prepared to meet the child's needs. In addition, knowing the medical and genetic histories of the child's birth family is important for meeting the child's medical needs throughout the child's lifetime.

In State statutes, the requirements for collecting information about adopted persons and their birth relatives vary from State to State. All 50 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico have statutes that specify the kinds of information that may be collected and shared with the adopting parents.

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To find statute information for a particular State, go to

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/>.

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

State laws specify the persons or entities authorized to prepare a report about the conditions and antecedents (family history) of the child to be adopted. In most States, information about the child and his or her birth family is compiled by the child-placing agency, the State's department of social services, or other designated person or agency that arranged the adoption. In approximately 10 States, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico,¹ the court may designate another qualified person, such as a social worker or specially trained investigator, to complete the report on the birth family. In approximately 10 States, the child's birth parent or other person placing the child for adoption is required to submit family information to the court.²

Contents of Report About the Adoptee

Information compiled about the person to be adopted usually includes medical and genetic history, family and social background, mental health history, placement history, and any history of abuse or neglect. In 15 States, the requirements ask for detailed information about the child, including medical and developmental history, as well as any school records.³ In five States and the District of Columbia, the report must provide the child's religious and ethnic background, if known.⁴

In six States, the report must indicate whether the adoptee is an Indian child, and, if so, whether the placement complies with the Indian Child Welfare Act.⁵ In Alabama, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and American Samoa, the report must disclose any known assets or property owned by the child. Massachusetts requires verification that the adoptee is not listed on the Federal register of missing children.

¹ The word "approximately" is used to stress the fact that States frequently amend their laws. This information is current as of August 2015. The States that currently have this provision include Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

² Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and Vermont.

³ California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and Washington.

⁴ Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, and Pennsylvania.

⁵ Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Oklahoma.

Approximately eight States require information about whether the child is eligible for any State or Federal adoption assistance.⁶

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

States generally require reports that include information about the birth parents' medical and genetic histories, family and social backgrounds, mental health histories, religious backgrounds, ethnic and racial backgrounds, and educational levels attained. In 17 States, the same types of information must be collected and disclosed about extended family members—including grandparents, aunts, and uncles—whenever possible.⁷ Some States also stipulate that information be collected on physical appearance, talents, hobbies, field of occupation, and drugs taken by the mother during pregnancy. In most instances, only nonidentifying information is shared with the adopting parents.⁸ However, in Colorado, New York, and American Samoa, names, addresses, and other identifying information about the birth parents, if obtainable, must be included in the reports.

When the Report Is Made

The timeframes for collecting the information and making a report about the birth family vary from State to State. In 19 States, the information must be provided to the prospective adoptive parents prior to the placement of the child.⁹ In eight States, American Samoa, and the District of Columbia, the report on the birth family's background must be included with the adoption petition.¹⁰ Four States require relinquishing birth parents to submit family and medical information to the court at the time that parental rights are terminated.¹¹

⁶ Florida, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, and Vermont.

⁷ Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

⁸ For more information on accessing adoption records, see Information Gateway's Access to Adoption Records (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/infoaccessap/>).

⁹ Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

¹⁰ Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, and Tennessee.

¹¹ New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

In nine States and Puerto Rico, statutes require the court to order a study and report when the initial application to adopt is filed, with specific time limits for completion.¹² Nine States, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands require the report to be submitted prior to the final hearing on the adoption petition.¹³ Maryland will provide any available information about the birth family to the adoptive parents on request.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

In 23 States, American Samoa, and the District of Columbia, an investigation into a child's family background is not required when the child will be adopted by his or her stepparent.¹⁴ In 20 States, the requirement is waived if the child will be adopted by a close relative.¹⁵ If the person to be adopted is an adult, no report is required in seven States and the District of Columbia.¹⁶ Other cases in which the requirement may be waived include adoption by a legal guardian in American Samoa, by the parent's domestic partner in the District of Columbia, or by a person named in a deceased parent's will in New Mexico.

This publication is a product of the State Statutes Series prepared by Child Welfare Information Gateway. While every attempt has been made to be complete, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State's code as well as agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures.

¹² Connecticut (within 60 days), Delaware (60 days), Idaho (30 days), Indiana (30 days), Iowa (30 days), Kentucky (90 days), Massachusetts (30 days), Pennsylvania (6 months), Virginia (60 days), and Puerto Rico (30 days).

¹³ Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, North Dakota, Ohio, Utah, and Wyoming.

¹⁴ Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Virginia.

¹⁵ Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho (by a grandparent only), Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio (by a grandparent only), Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

¹⁶ Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

Suggested Citation:

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2016). *Providing adoptive parents with information about adoptees and their birth families*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

Alabama

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ala. Code § 26-10A-19

A postplacement investigation must be performed by one of the following:

- The Department of Human Resources
- A licensed child-placing agency
- An individual or agency licensed by the department to perform investigations
- An individual appointed by the court who is a social worker licensed by the State Board of Social Work Examiners or a social worker II or above who is under the State merit system who is also certified by the State Board of Social Work Examiners for private independent practice in the social casework specialty

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ala. Code § 26-10A-19

A postplacement investigation shall include information concerning:

- Any property owned by the adopted person
- The medical history, both physical and mental, of the adopted person

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ala. Code § 26-10A-19

A postplacement investigation shall include information concerning:

- Why the birth parents, if living, desire to be relieved of the care, support, and guardianship of the child
- Whether the birth parents have abandoned the child or are otherwise unsuited to have custody of the child
- The medical histories, both physical and mental, of the birth parents

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ala. Code § 26-10A-19

The medical histories of the adopted person and birth parents shall be provided to the petitioner in writing before the decree is entered.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Ala. Code §§ 26-10A-27; 26-10A-28

Unless otherwise directed by the court for good cause shown, no investigation is required when a child is adopted by a stepparent or relative, except that before the filing of the petition for adoption, the adopted person must have resided for 1 year with the petitioner, unless this filing provision is waived by the court.

Relatives include a grandfather, grandmother, great-grandfather, great-grandmother, great-uncle, great-aunt, brother, half-brother, sister, half-sister, and aunt or uncle of the first degree and their respective spouses.

Alaska

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 25.23.100

An investigation shall be made by the department or any other qualified agency or person designated by the court.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Alaska Stat. § 25.23.100

An investigation shall inquire into the conditions and antecedents of the child sought to be adopted.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Alaska Stat. §§ 25.23.185; 18.50.510

Required information about the birth parents include:

- The address of each parent named on the original birth certificate
- The age of the birth parent on the day the adopted person was born

- The heritage of the birth parent, including national origin, ethnic background, and Tribal membership
- The medical histories of the birth parent and of blood relatives of the birth parent
- The number of years of school completed by the birth parent by the day the adoptee was born
- A physical description of the birth parent on the day the adopted person was born, including height, weight, and color of hair, eyes, and skin
- The existence of other children of the birth parent
- Whether the birth parent was alive at the time of adoption
- The religion of the birth parent

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Alaska Stat. §§ 25.23.100; 25.23.185**

A written report of the investigation shall be filed with the court by the investigator before the petition is heard as long as the report is filed within 30 days of the designation by the court of the department, agency, or person to make the investigation.

At the time a petition for adoption is filed with the court, the agency or individual placing the person for adoption, or the petitioner, shall file with the court, for release to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, information about the birth parents.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Alaska Stat. § 25.23.100**

Unless directed by the court, an investigation and report are not required in cases in which an agency is a party or joins in the petition for adoption, a stepparent is the petitioner, the person to be adopted is within the fourth degree of lineal or collateral consanguinity to the petitioner, or the person to be adopted is an adult.

American Samoa**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code § 45.0421**

The report is prepared by the Department of Health or a child-placing agency.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 45.0414; 45.0420**

The written report shall include the physical and mental condition of the child.

The adoption petition shall include:

- The name, date and place of birth, and place of residence, if known by the petitioner, of the adopted person
- The relationship, if any, of the child to the petitioner
- The full description of the property, if any, of the child

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 45.0414; 45.0420**

The written report shall include:

- The child's family background, including the names of parents and other identifying data regarding the parents, if obtainable
- Reasons for the termination of parental rights

The adoption petition shall include the names of the parents of the child and the address of each living parent, if known to the petitioner.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code § 45.0420**

Information about the adopted person and the birth family is filed with the adoption petition.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Code § 45.0421**

A report is not required for stepparent adoptions and those cases in which placement for adoption has been made by the court or by an individual in whom guardianship of the person of the child has been placed by the court or in accordance with the law of another State or territory.

Arizona

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-129

The division, agency, or person placing the child shall compile the information.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-112

The social study shall include the social history, heritage, and mental and physical condition of the child and the child's birth parents.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-129

The report shall contain detailed, written, nonidentifying information including a health and genetic history and all nonidentifying information about the birth parents or members of a birth parent's family.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-129

The report is compiled and provided to the prospective adoptive parents before the child is placed for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-112

A social study is not required if either of the following is true:

- The prospective adoptive parent is the child's stepparent who has been legally married to the child's birth or legal parent for at least 1 year, and the child has resided with the stepparent and parent for at least 6 months.
- The prospective adoptive parent is the child's adult sibling, by whole or half blood, or the child's aunt, uncle, grandparent, or great-grandparent, and the child has resided with the prospective adoptive parent for at least 6 months.

Arkansas

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Code § 9-9-212

The report is compiled by the licensed adoption agency or, when an agency is not involved, the person, entity, or organization handling the adoption.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Code § 9-9-212

The report shall consist of a detailed, written health history and genetic and social history of the child.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Code § 9-9-212

The report shall exclude information that would identify birth parents or members of a birth parent's family and shall be set forth in a document that is separate from any document containing such identifying information.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Code § 9-9-212

The report is compiled and provided to the prospective adoptive parents prior to placement for adoption. The report also must be filed with the clerk of the court before entry of the adoption decree.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Ann. Code § 9-9-212

Unless directed by the court, a detailed, written health history and genetic and social history of the child is not required if:

- The person to be adopted is an adult.
- The petitioner is a stepparent.
- The petitioner and the child to be adopted are related within the second degree of consanguinity.

California

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Family Code §§ 8706; 8817; 8909

The report is prepared by the department, delegated county adoption agency, or private agency that placed the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Family Code §§ 8706; 8817; 8909

The report on the child's background shall contain all known diagnostic information, including current medical reports on the child, psychological evaluations, and scholastic information, as well as all known information regarding the child's developmental history and family life.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Family Code §§ 8706; 8817; 8909

The written report shall contain the child's medical background and, if available, the medical background of the child's birth parents as far as is ascertainable.

The birth parents may provide a blood sample at a clinic or hospital approved by the State Department of Health Services. The birth parents' failure to provide a blood sample shall not affect the adoption of the child. The purpose of the stored sample of blood is to provide a blood sample from which DNA testing can be done at a later date after the entry of the order of adoption at the request of the adoptive parents or the adopted child.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Family Code §§ 8706; 8817; 8909

The child may not be placed for adoption unless the report has been submitted to the prospective adoptive parents and they have acknowledged in writing the receipt of the report.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Colorado

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 19-5-207

The report shall be prepared by the county Department of Social Services, the designated qualified individual, or the child-placing agency approved by the State Department of Human Services.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 19-5-207

The report must include the following information:

- The physical and mental condition of the child
- The child's family background, including the names of parents and other identifying data regarding the parents, if obtainable
- The child's own disposition toward the adoption in any case in which the child's age makes this feasible
- The length of time the child has been in the care and custody of the petitioner

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 19-5-207

The report must include the following information:

- The birth parents' family background, including their names and other identifying information, if obtainable
- Reasons for the termination of the parent-child legal relationship

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 19-5-207

The report must be submitted with the adoption petition.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Connecticut

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 45a-727

When an application for adoption has been submitted, the court shall request the commissioner or a child-placing agency to make an investigation and written report.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 45a-727

The report shall indicate the physical and mental status of the child and shall also contain such facts as may be relevant to determine whether the proposed adoption will be in the best interests of the child, including the physical, mental, genetic, and educational history of the child.

The report shall include:

- A history of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse suffered by the child, if any
- The child's health status at the time of placement
- The child's birth, neonatal, and other medical, psychological, psychiatric, and dental histories
- A record of immunizations for the child
- The available results of medical, psychological, psychiatric, and dental examinations of the child
- Information, to the extent known, about past and existing relationships of the child and the child's siblings, birth parents, extended family, and other persons who have had physical possession of or legal access to the child
- The educational history of the child, including, to the extent known, information about:
 - » The enrollment and performance of the child in educational institutions
 - » Results of educational testing and standardized tests
 - » Special educational needs, if any

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 45a-727

The report shall include the physical, mental, social, and financial conditions of the birth parents of the child, if known.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 45a-727

The report shall be filed with the court within 60 days. A duplicate of the report shall be sent immediately to the Commissioner of Children and Families.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 45a-733

In the case of a child sought to be adopted by a stepparent, the court may waive all requirements for investigation and report by the Commissioner of Children and Families or by a child-placing agency.

Delaware

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 912

Upon the filing of a petition for adoption, the court shall order a social study report that shall be completed by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, or licensed or authorized agency, unless the report was filed with the petition.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 912

The report shall include information regarding the child's:

- Family background and eligibility for adoption
- Physical and mental conditions

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 912**

The report shall include nonidentifying information regarding the child's family background.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 912**

If the placement is made by the department or licensed agency, the report shall be submitted within 60 days from the receipt of the order for the report unless the report is filed with the petition for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 13, § 912**

In the case of adoption by a stepparent or blood relative, the report is to be submitted within 60 days following the completion of the social study and shall include a statement of the cost of the study.

District of Columbia**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code § 16-307**

Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall refer the petition for investigation, report, and recommendation to:

- The licensed child-placing agency by which the case is supervised
- The Mayor, if the case is not supervised by a licensed child-placing agency

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 16-305; 16-307**

The petition shall contain the following information:

- The name, sex, date, and place of birth of the prospective adopted person
- The relationship, if any, of the prospective adopted person to the petitioner
- The race and religion of the prospective adopted person

The report and recommendation shall include an investigation of the environment, antecedents, and assets, if any, of the prospective adopted person, to determine whether he or she is a proper subject for adoption.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-305**

The petition shall contain the following information:

- The names, addresses, and residences of the birth parents, if known to the petitioner; except in an adoption proceeding that is consented to by the Mayor or a licensed child-placing agency, the names, addresses, and residences of the birth parents may not be set forth
- The race and religion of the adopted person's birth parent or parents

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-307**

The report is made upon the filing of an adoption petition.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-308**

The court may dispense with the investigation and report when:

- The prospective adopted person is an adult.
- The petitioner is a spouse or domestic partner of the birth parent of the prospective adopted person, and the birth parent consents to the adoption or joins in the petition for adoption.

The term 'domestic partner' shall have the same meaning as provided in § 32-701(3), but shall exclude a domestic partner who is the parent, grandparent, sibling, child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt, or uncle of the birth parent.

Florida

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 63.082; 63.085; 63.032

An adoption entity must provide the prospective adoptive parents with information concerning the background of the child. An adoption entity includes:

- The Department of Children and Family Services
- A child-placing agency licensed by the department to place minors for adoption
- A child care agency registered under § 409.176
- An intermediary (a licensed attorney who arranges the placement of children for adoption)
- A child-placing agency licensed in another State that is qualified by the department to place children in the State of Florida

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 63.085

The adoption entity is responsible for providing the prospective adoptive parents with information concerning the background of the child to the extent such information is disclosed to the adoption entity by the parents, legal custodian, or the department. The information to be disclosed includes:

- A complete set of the child's medical records documenting all medical treatment and care since the child's birth and before placement
- All mental health, psychological, and psychiatric records, reports, and evaluations concerning the child before placement
- The child's educational records, including all records concerning any special education needs of the child before placement
- Records documenting all incidents that required the department to provide services to the child, including all orders of adjudication of dependency or termination of parental rights, any case plans drafted to address the child's needs, all protective services investigations identifying the child as a victim, and all guardian ad litem reports filed with the court concerning the child
- Written information concerning the availability of adoption subsidies for the child, if applicable

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 63.085

The adoption entity is responsible for providing the prospective adoptive parents with information concerning the background of the child to the extent such information is disclosed to the adoption entity by the parents, legal custodian, or the department. The information to be disclosed includes:

- A family social and medical history form completed pursuant to § 63.162(6)
- The birth mother's medical records documenting her prenatal care and the birth and delivery of the child

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Fla. Stat. § 63.085

In all cases, the prospective adoptive parents must receive all available information by the date of the final hearing on the petition for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Fla. Stat. § 63.082

The form containing biological and sociological information, or information as to the family medical history, is not required for adoptions of relatives, adult adoptions, or adoptions of stepchildren, unless parental rights are being or were terminated pursuant to chapter 39.

Georgia

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Code § 19-8-16

A child-placing agency or any other independent agent appointed by the court shall have the duty to make a complete and thorough investigation and report.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 19-8-17**

The report and findings of the investigating agency shall include, among other things, the following:

- The circumstances under which the child came to be placed for adoption
- The physical and mental condition of the child, as far as this can be determined by the aid of a competent medical authority
- Whether or not the adoption is in the best interests of the child

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code § 19-8-23**

Nonidentifying information regarding the adopted person's birth parents may be released to the adoptive parents. Such information may include:

- The date and place of birth of the adopted person
- The genetic, social, and health histories of the birth parents
- Medical histories of the birth parents or relatives of the birth parents

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code § 19-8-16**

The investigation shall be completed prior to the date set by the court for a hearing on the petition for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Guam**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 4210**

At the direction of the court, the Division of Social Services shall complete a social study.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 4210**

The study shall include:

- The child's social history
- The present condition of the child
- The child's placement in the home of the petitioners and his or her adjustment therein

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 4210**

The study shall include the social history of the child's birth family.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 4210**

A report in writing of the study shall be submitted to the court prior to the adoption hearing.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Hawaii**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 578-8; 578-14.5**

The Department of Human Services shall complete the court-ordered investigation and report. The Department of Health shall prepare a medical history form on the birth family.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 578-8**

The investigation shall determine whether:

- The child is physically, mentally, and otherwise suitable for adoption by the petitioners.
- The adoption is in the best interests of the child.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 578-14.5**

The medical information form shall provide medical information about the birth parents of the adopted person. This form shall include a request for any information relating to the adopted person's potential genetic or other inheritable diseases or afflictions, including but not limited to known genetic disorders, inheritable diseases, and similar medical histories, if known, of the parents of the birth parents.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 578-14.5**

The report of the investigation shall be presented to the court before a decree of adoption can be entered.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Idaho**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code § 16-1506**

The Department of Health and Welfare or other children's adoption agency may conduct the required studies.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-1506**

The report shall include the alleged date and place of birth and parentage of the child to be adopted, as well as the source of all such information.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-1506**

The investigative report shall include reasonably known or available medical and genetic information regarding both birth parents and sources of such information, as well as reasonably known or available providers of medical care and services to the birth parents. A copy of all medical and genetic information compiled in the investigation shall be made available to the adopting family.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-1506**

The report shall be completed as soon as possible, not exceeding 30 days after service of the petition on the director.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-1506**

In those instances where the prospective adoptive parent is married to the birth parent or is the grandparent of the child to be adopted, such social investigation shall be completed with regard to the prospective adoptive parent only upon order of the court.

Illinois**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Comp. Stat. Ch. 750 § 50/18.4**

The written report shall be prepared by:

- The agency
- The Department of Children and Family Services
- Court Supportive Services, Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court
- The Probation Officers of the Circuit Court involved in the adoption proceedings

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Comp. Stat. Ch. 750 § 50/18.4a**

To the extent currently in possession of the agency, the medical and mental health histories of the child and of the birth parents, with information identifying the birth parents deleted, shall be provided to the child's prospective adoptive parent. The medical and mental health histories shall include all the following available information:

- Conditions or diseases believed to be hereditary
- Drugs or medications taken by the child's birth mother during pregnancy
- Psychological and psychiatric information
- Any other information that may be a factor influencing the child's present or future health

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Comp. Stat. Ch. 750 § 50/18.4**

The following nonidentifying information, if known, shall be given to the adoptive parents:

- The ages of the birth parents
- The races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds of the birth parents
- The general physical appearances of the birth parents
- The education, occupations, hobbies, interests, and talents of the birth parents
- The existence of any other children born to the birth parents
- Information about birth grandparents
- The reason the birth parents emigrated to the United States, if applicable, and the countries of origin
- The relationship of the birth parents
- Detailed medical and mental health histories of the child, the birth parents, and their immediate relatives
- The actual date and place of birth of the adopted child

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Comp. Stat. Ch. 750, §§ 50/18; 50/18.4**

Nonidentifying information about the birth family, to the extent known, shall be given to the adoptive parents no later than the date of placement.

Medical and mental health histories of the child shall be provided to the child's prospective adoptive parent and shall be provided upon request to an adoptive parent when a child has been adopted.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Comp. Stat. Ch. 750, § 50/6**

An investigation shall not be made when the petitioner seeks to adopt a related child or an adult unless the court, in its discretion, shall so order. In such an event the court may appoint a person deemed competent by the court.

Indiana**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code §§ 31-19-17-2; 31-19-17-3**

A person, licensed child-placing agency, or local office shall prepare all required reports.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 31-19-17-3; 31-19-17-4; 31-19-2-7**

All available social, medical, psychological, and educational records concerning the child shall be released to the prospective adoptive parent.

A medical report of the health status and medical histories of the child sought to be adopted and of the child's birth parents must include neonatal, psychological, physiological, and medical care history. The report shall be sent to the prospective adoptive parents.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann Code § 31-19-17-2**

A report shall be prepared that summarizes the available medical, psychological, and educational records concerning the birth parents. The report shall exclude information that would identify the birth parents unless the prospective adoptive parents know the identity of the birth parents.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 31-19-2-7; 31-19-17-2**

The report concerning birth parents shall be given to the prospective adoptive parents:

- At the time the home study or evaluation concerning the suitability of the proposed home for the child is commenced
- As soon as is practical after the prospective adoptive parents are matched with the birth mother
- With the consent of the prospective adoptive parents, no later than 30 days after the child is placed with the adoptive parents

The medical report of the health status and medical history of the child and the child's birth parents must accompany a petition for adoption or be filed no later than 60 days after the filing of a petition for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Iowa**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 600.8**

A background information investigation and a report of the investigation shall be made by the agency, the person making an independent placement, or an investigator.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 600.8; 600A.4**

The background information investigation and report shall not disclose the identity of the adopted person.

The report shall include, to the extent available:

- The complete family medical and social history of the adopted person, including any known genetic, metabolic, or familial disorders
- The complete medical and developmental histories of the adopted person
- A social history of the adopted person

The social history may include, but is not limited to:

- The minor child's racial, ethnic, and religious background
- An account of the minor child's prior and existing relationship with any relative, foster parent, or other individual with whom the minor child regularly lives or whom the child regularly visits

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 600.8; 600A.4**

The background information investigation and report shall not disclose the identity of the birth parents of the minor adopted person.

The report shall include, to the extent available, a social history of the minor adopted person's family that does not disclose the identity of the birth parents. The social history may include, but is not limited to, a general description of the minor child's birth parents.

A birth parent may also provide ongoing information to the adoptive parents as additional medical or social history information becomes known by providing information to the clerk of court, Department of Human Services, or agency that made the placement and may provide the current address of the birth parent. The clerk of court, department, or agency that made the placement shall transmit the information to the adoptive parents if the address of the adoptive parents is known.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 600.8**

The report shall be completed and filed with the court prior to the adoption hearing prescribed in § 600.12.

A copy of the background information investigation report shall be furnished to the adoption petitioners within 30 days after the filing of the adoption petition.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 600.8**

Any report required by this section shall not be needed when the adopted person is an adult or when the prospective adoption petitioner is a stepparent of the adopted person. In addition, any required report may be waived by the court if the adoption petitioner is related within the fourth degree of consanguinity to the person to be adopted.

Kansas**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 59-2132**

The required report must be completed by a court-approved, licensed:

- Social worker, specialist social worker, specialist clinical social worker, masters-level social worker, baccalaureate-level social worker, or associate social worker
- Clinical marriage and family therapist or marriage and family therapist
- Clinical professional counselor or professional counselor
- Psychologist, masters-level psychologist, or clinical psychotherapist
- Child-placing agency

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 59-2130**

The following information must be included in the report:

- Complete written genetic, medical, and social histories of the child
- Any hospital records pertaining to the child or a properly executed authorization for release of those records
- The child's birth verification, including the date, time, place of birth, and the name of the attending physician

The genetic, medical, and social histories required by this section shall be in conformity with the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Department for Children and Families on forms provided by the secretary. If any required information is not available, an affidavit explaining the reasons why it is not available shall be filed with the petition for adoption.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 59-2130**

The following information must be included in the report:

- Complete, written genetic, medical, and social histories of the birth parents
- The names, dates of birth, addresses, telephone numbers, and Social Security numbers of each of the child's birth parents, if known

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 59-2130**

The required information shall be filed with the petition in an independent or agency adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 59-2132**

The report required by this section may be waived by the court upon review of a petition requesting a waiver by a relative of the child.

Kentucky**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 199.510**

The investigation and report may be completed by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or any person, agency, or institution designated by it or the court.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 199.510**

The report shall address whether the adoption is in the best interests of the child and the child is suitable for adoption.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 199.520**

The health histories and other nonidentifying background information of birth parents and blood relatives of the adopted person, in writing, on a standardized form provided by the cabinet, if known, shall be given by the cabinet or child-placing agency that has the information to the adoptive parents and to the circuit court no later than the date of finalization of the adoption proceedings. This information shall include the results of any tests for HIV or hepatitis A, B, and C.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 199.510**

The report shall be filed with the court as soon as practical but no later than 90 days from the placement of the child or 90 days after the filing date of the petition, whichever is longer, unless for good cause the court, by written order, extends the period of time for filing the report.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Louisiana**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Children's Code Art. 1207; 1229**

The Department of Social Services shall investigate the proposed private or agency adoption and submit a confidential report of its findings to the court. The department may delegate the performance of this investigation to a licensed private adoption agency, but the department remains responsible for ensuring the accuracy and thoroughness of the resulting report.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Children's Code Art. 1207; 1229; 1125**

The department's report shall include:

- The physical and mental condition of the child
- Other factors regarding the suitability of the child for adoption in petitioner's home

The Statement of Family History from the surrendering parent shall contain the following information about the child, if applicable:

- Immunization record
- Illness history

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Children's Code Art. 1124; 1125**

A surrendering parent shall execute a Statement of Family History that shall be attached to the Act of Surrender.

The Statement of Family History shall contain the following nonidentifying information, if known:

- The age of each birth parent
- Descriptive information about each birth parent, including:
 - » Age, height, weight, hair color, eye color, complexion, and body build
 - » Education, occupation, and talents
 - » Religion, race, and ethnicity or nationality
 - » Native American/Tribal affiliation, if applicable
- The biological relationship of the parents, if applicable
- Explicit and extensive medical genetic histories of each birth parent and his or her parents, siblings, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Children's Code Art. 1124**

The Statement of Family History from the surrendering parent shall be given to the prospective adoptive parents at the time of placement.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Children's Code Art. 1252**

The department shall not investigate a proposed intrafamily adoption except upon order of the court. If the court orders an investigation, it may request any information that it deems relevant and require that the department submit a confidential report of its findings to the court.

Maine**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Stat. Tit. 22, § 8205**

The licensed child-placing agency shall obtain medical and genetic information on the birth parents and the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. Tit. 22, § 8205; Tit. 18-A, § 9-304**

The licensed child-placing agency shall attempt to obtain a current medical, psychological, and developmental history of the child, including:

- An account of the child's prenatal care and medical condition at birth
- The results of any newborn screening
- Any drug or medication taken by the child's birth mother during pregnancy
- Any subsequent medical, psychological, or psychiatric examinations and diagnoses
- Any physical, sexual, or emotional abuse suffered by the child
- A record of any immunizations and health care received since birth

The study must include an investigation of the conditions and antecedents of the child to determine whether the child is a proper subject for adoption.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Rev. Stat. Tit. 22, § 8205**

The licensed child-placing agency shall attempt to obtain relevant information concerning the medical, psychological, and social histories of the birth parents, including:

- Any known diseases or hereditary dispositions to disease
- The history of use of drugs and alcohol
- The health of the birth mother during her pregnancy
- The health of the birth parents at the time of the child's birth

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Rev. Stat. Tit. 22, § 8205; Tit. 18-A, § 9-304**

Prior to the child being placed for the purpose of adoption, the licensed child-placing agency shall provide the information described above to the prospective adoptive parents.

Upon the filing of a petition for adoption of a minor child, the court shall direct the department or a licensed child-placing agency to conduct a study and make a report to the court. The department or licensed child-placing agency shall submit the report to the court within 60 days.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Rev. Stat. Tit. 18-A, § 9-304**

If the petitioner is a blood relative of the child, the court may waive the requirement of a study and report.

Maryland

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Family Law § 5-3A-39

The child-placing agency shall make reasonable efforts to compile any available information.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Family Law §§ 5-3A-39

The child-placing agency shall make reasonable efforts to compile and make available to a prospective adoptive parent:

- All of the prospective adopted person's medical and mental health records that the agency has
- A comprehensive medical and mental health history of the prospective adopted person

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Family Law § 5-3A-39

On request of a prospective adoptive parent, a child-placing agency shall make reasonable efforts to compile pertinent medical and mental health histories for each of the prospective adopted person's parents, if available to the agency, and to make the histories available to the prospective adoptive parent.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Family Law § 5-3A-39

If, after adoption, a child-placing agency receives medical or mental health information about the adopted person or adopted person's former parent, the agency shall make reasonable efforts to make the information available to the adoptive parent.

If, after adoption, the adoptive parent requests additional information, the child-placing agency shall make reasonable efforts to notify the former parent at the former parent's last known address available to the agency of the request and the reason for the request.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Massachusetts

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 210, §§ 5A; 5D

The Department of Children and Families shall conduct the investigation of the adoption petition.

A placement agency may release records that it holds relating to an adopted person or the birth parents of an adopted person.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 210, §§ 5A; 5D

The department shall make appropriate inquiries to determine the condition and antecedents of the child for the purpose of ascertaining whether he or she is a proper subject for adoption.

In any petition for adoption, the department shall submit to the court verification that the adopted person is not registered with the Federal register for missing children and the central register.

The agency, in its discretion, shall further release such nonidentifying information concerning the circumstances under which the adopted person became available for adoption as it deems to be in the best interests of the person so requesting.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 210, §§ 5A; 5D

The placement agency shall release to an adoptive parent, upon the adoptive parent's written request, information about the adopted person and his or her birth parents that will not identify or tend to lead to the identification of the birth parents or their present or former locations. Such information shall include such nonidentifying information that the agency has concerning the medical, ethnic, socio-economic, and educational circumstances of the person.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 210, § 5A**

Upon the filing of a petition for adoption of a child under age 14, notice shall be given to the Department of Children and Families to make an investigation of the child and his or her family. The department shall submit its written report to the court no later than 30 days after receipt of the notice.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 210, § 5A**

The court may waive the provisions of this section in the case of a petition for the adoption of a child of one of the parties petitioning for said adoption.

Michigan**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Comp. Laws § 710.27**

Background information for the adoptive parents may be provided by a parent or guardian, a child-placing agency, the department, or the court that places the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Comp. Laws § 710.27**

A written document shall contain all of the following nonidentifying information:

- Date, time, and place of birth of the child including the hospital, city, county, and State
- An account of the health and genetic histories of the child, including:
 - » The child's prenatal care
 - » The child's medical condition at birth
 - » Any drug or medication taken by the child's mother during pregnancy
 - » Any subsequent medical, psychological, psychiatric, or dental examinations and diagnoses
 - » Any psychological evaluation done when the child was under the jurisdiction of the court
 - » Any neglect or physical, sexual, or emotional abuse suffered by the child
 - » A record of any immunizations and health care the child received while in foster or other care
- A description of the child, including all of the following:
 - » Given first name at birth
 - » The age and sex of siblings
 - » Enrollment and performance in school, results of educational testing, and any special educational needs
 - » Racial, ethnic, and religious background
 - » An account of the child's past and existing relationship with any relative, foster parent, or other individual or facility with whom the child has lived or visited on a regular basis
 - » Any information necessary to determine the child's eligibility for State or Federal benefits, including financial, medical, or other assistance

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Comp. Laws § 710.27**

A written document shall contain all of the following nonidentifying information:

- An account of the health and genetic histories of the child's birth parents and other members of the child's family, including:
 - » Any known hereditary conditions or diseases
 - » The health of each parent at the child's birth
 - » A summary of the findings of any medical, psychological, or psychiatric evaluations of each parent at the time of placement
 - » If a parent is deceased, the cause of and the age at death
- A description of the child's family of origin, including all of the following:
 - » A general description of the child's parents, including the age of the child's parents at the time of termination of parental rights and the length of time the parents had been married at the time of placement
 - » The levels of educational, occupational, professional, athletic, or artistic achievement of the child's family
 - » Hobbies, special interests, and school activities of the child's family

- » The circumstances of any judicial order terminating the parental rights of a parent for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or other mistreatment of the child
- » Length of time between the termination of parental rights and adoptive placement and whether the termination was voluntary or court-ordered

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Comp. Laws § 710.27**

The written report must be available before placement of a child for adoption. In a direct placement, the parent or guardian shall transmit the required information to the court before the termination of parental rights.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Comp. Laws § 710.27**

This section does not apply to a stepparent adoption or to the adoption of a child related to the petitioner within the fifth degree by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Minnesota**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 259.43**

A birth parent or an agency, if an agency placement, shall provide a prospective adoptive parent with complete, thorough, detailed, and current social and medical histories of the child being adopted, if information is known after reasonable inquiry.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 259.43**

The child's social and medical histories must be provided on a form or forms prepared by the commissioner and must include background and health histories specific to the child. Applicable background and health information about the child includes:

- The child's current health condition, behavior, and demeanor
- Placement history
- Education history
- Sibling information
- Birth, medical, dental, and immunization information

Redacted copies of pertinent records, assessments, and evaluations shall be attached to the child's social and medical histories.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 259.43**

The social and medical histories must include background and health histories specific to the child's birth parents and other birth relatives. Applicable background information about the child's birth parents and other birth relatives includes:

- General background information
- Education and employment histories
- Physical health and mental health histories
- Reasons for the child's placement

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 259.43**

The child's social and medical histories must be provided to the prospective adoptive family prior to adoptive placement, provided to the Department of Human Services with application for adoption assistance, if applicable, and filed with the court when the adoption petition is filed. In a direct adoptive placement, the child's social and medical histories must be filed with the court with the motion for temporary preadoptive custody.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 259.43**

These requirements apply to any adoption under this chapter, except a stepparent or an adult adoption under § 259.241.

Mississippi

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Code § 93-17-205

The Bureau of Vital Records of the Mississippi State Board of Health shall maintain a centralized adoption records file for all adoptions performed in this State after July 1, 2005.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Code § 93-17-3

The adoption petition shall be accompanied by a doctor's or nurse practitioner's certificate showing the physical and mental condition of the child to be adopted and a sworn statement of all property, if any, owned by the child.

If the doctor's or nurse practitioner's certificate indicates any abnormal mental or physical condition or defect, the condition or defect shall not, in the discretion of the chancellor, bar the adoption of the child if the adopting parent or parents file an affidavit stating full and complete knowledge of the condition or defect and stating a desire to adopt the child, notwithstanding the condition or defect.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 93-17-205; 93-17-207

The adoptive parents may access nonidentifying information about the child's birth family from the centralized adoption records file. Available information may include:

- The medical and social histories of the birth parents, including information regarding genetically inheritable diseases or illnesses and any similar information furnished by the birth parents about the adopted person's grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters, if known
- A report of any medical examination that either birth parent had within 1 year before the date of the petition for adoption, if available and known
- A report describing the adoptee's prenatal care and medical condition at birth, if available and known
- The medical and social histories of the adopted person, including information regarding genetically inheritable diseases or illnesses, and any other relevant medical, social, and genetic information, if available

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Code § 93-17-3

The report on the child's condition must be filed with the adoption petition. Information about the birth family may be accessed at any time from the centralized adoption records file.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Missouri

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 453.026

The person placing the child for adoption shall furnish to the court, guardian ad litem, and prospective adoptive parent a written report regarding the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 453.026

The Children's Division of the Department of Social Services shall promulgate rules and regulations regarding all written information that shall be furnished to the court, guardian ad litem, and prospective adoptive parent.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 453.121

Nonidentifying information, if known, concerning undisclosed birth parents or siblings shall be furnished by the child-placing agency or the juvenile court to the adoptive parents, legal guardians, adopted adult, or, if the adopted adult is deceased, the adopted adult's lineal descendants, upon written request. Nonidentifying information includes the physical description, nationality, religious background, and medical history of the birth parent or sibling.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 453.026**

The report about the child must be compiled as early as is practical before the prospective adoptive parent accepts physical custody of the child.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Montana**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code §§ 42-3-101; 42-4-203**

Information about birth families shall be provided by a birth parent, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, or an agency. A parent placing a child for adoption shall provide information about the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 42-4-203**

A parent placing a child for adoption shall identify and provide information pertaining to any Indian heritage of the child that would bring the child within the jurisdiction of the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1901, et seq.

A parent placing a child for adoption shall provide:

- The disclosures of medical and social histories
- A certified copy of the child's birth certificate or other document certifying the place and date of the child's birth
- A certified copy of any existing court orders pertaining to custody or visitation of the child

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code § 42-3-101**

In any adoption under this title, a birth parent, the department, or an agency shall provide a prospective adoptive parent with social and medical histories of the birth families, including Tribal affiliation, if applicable.

In a direct parental placement adoption, the birth family's social and medical histories must be completed on a form provided by the department.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code § 42-3-101**

The birth family's social and medical histories must be filed with the court when the adoption petition is filed.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Code § 42-3-101**

The requirement to provide medical and social histories does not apply in an adoption proceeding by a stepparent.

Nebraska**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-107**

The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for completing the medical history form.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-107**

A complete medical history of the child must be provided.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-107**

Effective May 17, 2011, the complete medical history or histories required under this subsection shall include the race, ethnicity, nationality, Indian Tribe when applicable and in compliance with the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act, or other cultural history of both birth parents, if available.

Medical histories shall be provided, if available, for the birth mother and father and their birth families, including, but not limited to, siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles, unless the child is foreign born or was abandoned. The medical history or histories shall be reported on a form provided by the department and filed along with the report of adoption.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-107**

Upon the filing of a petition for adoption, the judge shall require that a complete medical history of the child be provided.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-107**

In the adoption of a child by a stepparent, the provision of a medical history shall be discretionary.

Nevada**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 127.152**

The agency that provides child welfare services or a licensed child-placing agency shall provide the adopting parents with a report.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 127.120; 127.152**

The agency that provides child welfare services or a licensed child-placing agency designated by the court shall investigate the condition of the child, including, without limitation, whether the child is an Indian child.

The agency that provides child welfare services or a licensed child-placing agency shall provide the adopting parents of a child with a report that includes:

- A copy of any medical records of the child that are in the possession of the agency
- Any information obtained by the agency during interviews of the birth parent regarding:
 - » The medical and sociological histories of the child
 - » Any behavioral, emotional, or psychological problems that the child may have
- Written information regarding any subsidies, assistance, and other services that may be available to the child if it is determined that he or she has any special needs

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Rev. Stat. §127.152**

The agency that provides child welfare services or a licensed child-placing agency shall provide the adopting parents of a child with a report that includes any information obtained by the agency during interviews of the natural parent regarding the medical and sociological histories of the birth parents of the child.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 127.120**

The report shall be made when an adoption petition is filed.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 127.120**

If one petitioner or the spouse of a petitioner is related to the child within the third degree of consanguinity, the court may, in its discretion, waive the investigation.

New Hampshire**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 170-B:9**

Information about the family shall be provided by the birth parent.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 170-B:9; 170-B:10**

Any parent surrendering parental rights shall file with the court information on the age and medical and personal backgrounds of the child. Such personal information may include, but not be limited to, ethnic and religious background, as is reasonably known.

A surrender of parental rights shall state whether the child is an Indian child as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § Section 1901, et seq.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 170-B:9; 170-B:10**

Any parent surrendering parental rights shall file with the court information on the age and medical and personal backgrounds of the child. Such personal information may include but not be limited to ethnic and religious background, as is reasonably known.

A surrender of parental rights shall state whether the child is an Indian child as defined in the Indian Child Welfare Act, 25 U.S.C. § Section 1901, et seq.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 170-B:9**

The family information shall be filed with the instrument surrendering parental rights.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

New Jersey**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 9:3-41.1**

An approved agency making an investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the surrender of a child shall provide a prospective parent with all available information.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 9:3-41.1**

The report shall include all available nonidentifying information relevant to the child's development, including his or her developmental and medical history, personality, and temperament.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 9:3-41.1**

The report shall include all available nonidentifying information, including:

- The parents' complete medical histories, including conditions or diseases that are believed to be hereditary
- Any drugs or medications taken during pregnancy
- Any other conditions of the parents' health that may be a factor influencing the child's present or future health

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 9:3-41.1**

This information shall be made available to the prospective parent prior to the actual adoptive placement to the extent available and supplemented upon the completion of an investigation conducted by an approved agency pursuant to § 9:3-48.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

New Mexico

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 32A-5-14

The preplacement study shall be performed as prescribed by Children, Youth and Families Department regulation.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 32A-5-3; 32A-5-14

The preplacement study shall include at a minimum the following:

- A report of a medical examination performed on the adopted person within 1 year prior to the proposed adoptive placement
- Full disclosure to the petitioner

Full disclosure means mandatory and continuous disclosure by the investigator, agency, department, or petitioner throughout the adoption proceeding and after finalization of the adoption of all known, nonidentifying information regarding the adopted person, including:

- Health history
- Psychological history
- Mental history
- Hospital history
- Medication history
- Genetic history
- Physical descriptions
- Social history
- Placement history
- Education

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 32A-5-3

The preplacement study shall include a written evaluation of the adopted person's birth family.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 32A-5-12

In all adoptions, prior to any placement being made, the person making the placement shall provide full disclosure.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 32A-5-14

Unless directed by the court, a preplacement study is not required in cases in which the child is being adopted by a stepparent, a relative, or a person named in the child's deceased parent's will pursuant to § 32A-5-12.

New York

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Dom. Rel. Law § 112

The adoptive parents or parent and the adoptee, if age 18 or older, must present the required information to the judge.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Dom. Rel. Law § 112

The petition must include:

- The first name, date, and place of birth of the adoptive child as nearly as the same can be ascertained
- The religious faith of the adoptive child and his or her parents as nearly as the same can be ascertained
- The manner in which the adoptive parents obtained the adoptive child
- Whether the child was placed or brought into the State of New York from out of State for the purpose of adoption
- Whether the placement was subject to the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, and if so, whether the provisions of the compact were complied with
- The period of time the adoptive child has resided with the adoptive parents
- Whether the adoptive child had been previously adopted

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Dom. Rel. Law § 112

The petition must include:

- The heritage of the parents, including nationality, ethnic background, and race
- Education, including the number of years of school completed by the parents at the time of the adoptive child's birth
- General physical appearance of the parents at the time of the adoptive child's birth, including height, weight, and color of hair, eyes, and skin
- Occupation of the parents at the time of the adoptive child's birth
- Health and medical histories of the parents at the time of the adoptive child's birth, including:
 - » All available information setting forth conditions or diseases believed to be hereditary
 - » Any drugs or medication taken during the pregnancy by the child's mother
- Any other information that may be a factor influencing the child's present or future health
- Talents, hobbies, and special interests of the parents

The petition shall also include the names and current addresses of the birth parents, if known.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Dom. Rel. Law § 112

The required information must be included in the adoption petition.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

North Carolina

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Gen. Stat. § 48-3-205

An individual or agency placing the minor, or the individual's agent, must compile and provide to the prospective adoptive parent a written document containing the information described below about the child and the child's birth family.

The Division of Social Services shall develop and make available forms designed to collect the information described below. However, forms reasonably equivalent to those provided by the division may be substituted.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Gen. Stat. § 48-3-205

The information that must be provided includes the child's date of birth and the child's weight at birth. In addition, the written document must include all reasonably available nonidentifying information about the health of the child that is relevant to the adoption decision or to the minor's health and development. This health-related information shall include:

- The child's present state of physical and mental health
- Health and genetic histories
- Information concerning any history of emotional, physical, sexual, or substance abuse
- An account of the prenatal and postnatal care received by the child

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Gen. Stat. § 48-3-205

The information that must be provided includes:

- The ages of the birth parents in years at the time of the child's birth
- The heritage of the birth parents, including nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, and race
- The education of the birth parents, including the number of years of school completed by the birth parents at the time of the child's birth
- The general physical appearances of the birth parents

In addition, the written document must include all reasonably available nonidentifying information about the health of the birth parents and other members of the birth parents' families that is relevant to the adoption decision or to the child's health and development. This health-related information shall include each individual's:

- Present state of physical and mental health
- Health and genetic histories
- Information concerning any history of emotional, physical, sexual, or substance abuse

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Gen. Stat. § 48-3-205

The information must be provided to the adoptive parent before the child is placed for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

North Dakota

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Cent. Code § 14-15-11

An investigation must be conducted by a licensed child-placing agency.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Cent. Code §§ 14-15-11; 14-15.1-04

The report of the investigation must contain a review of the child's history.

If the child has been born before the filing of the report, the report must include a medical and developmental history of the child.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Cent. Code §§ 15-15.1-04; 14-15-01

The report must include the medical and social histories of the birth parents, including an assessment regarding the birth parents' understanding and acceptance of the action.

The preplacement investigation includes information obtained regarding the child's history, including the following nonidentifying information:

- Ages of the genetic parents in years at the birth of the adopted child
- Heritage of the genetic parents
- Educational attainments, including the number of years of school completed by the genetic parents at the time of birth of the adopted child
- General physical appearance of each genetic parent at the time of birth of the adopted child, including the height; weight; color of hair, eyes, and skin; and other information of a similar nature
- Talents, hobbies, and special interests of the genetic parents
- Existence of any other children born to either genetic parent
- Reasons for child being placed for adoption or for termination of parental rights
- Religion of the genetic parents
- Vocations of the genetic parents in general terms
- Health histories of the genetic parents and blood relatives in a manner prescribed by the department
- Such further information that, in the judgment of the agency, will not be detrimental to the adoptive parent or the adoptee requesting the information, but the additional information may not identify genetic parents by name or location

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Cent. Code §§ 14-15-11; 14-15.1-04

A written report of the investigation must be filed with the court by the investigator before the petition is heard.

Before a hearing under this chapter for an adoptive placement with identified adoptive parents, the report of a child-placing agency must be filed with the court. The child-placing agency shall serve a copy of the report upon the birth parent, the identified adoptive parent, the guardian ad litem, and the Department of Human Services at least 7 days before the hearing.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Cent. Code § 14-15-11**

An investigation and report is not required in cases in which a stepparent is the petitioner or the individual to be adopted is an adult.

Northern Mariana Islands**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, §§ 1408; 1410**

Information about the child must be included with the adoption petition.

If the court so orders, an investigation shall be made by:

- The Division of Youth Services or its designee
- Any qualified person or agency designated by the court

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, § 1408**

The adoption petition shall include the date and place of birth, if known, of the adopted person.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, § 1410**

The investigation shall inquire into the condition and antecedents of the adopted person.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, § 1410**

A written report of the investigation shall be filed with the court before the adoption petition is heard.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Ohio**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Code § 3107.014**

Social and medical histories must be completed by an assessor. Only an individual who meets all of the following requirements may perform the duties of an assessor:

- The individual must be in the employ of, appointed by, or under contract with a court, public children's services agency, private child-placing agency, or private noncustodial agency.
- The individual must be one of the following:
 - » A licensed professional clinical counselor, professional counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist
 - » A licensed psychologist
 - » A student working to earn a 4-year postsecondary or higher degree in a social or behavioral science who conducts assessor's duties under the supervision of a trained assessor
 - » A civil service employee engaging in social work without a license
 - » A former employee of a public children's services agency who, while so employed, conducted the duties of an assessor
- The individual must complete training in accordance with rules adopted under § 3107.015.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Code § 3107.12**

The report of a prefinalization assessment shall include all of the following:

- The adjustment of the child to the adoptive placement
- The present and anticipated needs of the child, as determined by a review of the child's medical and social histories, for adoption-related services, including assistance under title IV-E or § 5153.163 and counseling, case management services, crisis services, diagnostic services, and therapeutic counseling
- The physical, mental, and developmental conditions of the child
- If known, the child's birth family background, including identifying information about the birth or other legal parents

- The reasons for the child’s placement with the petitioner and the circumstances under which the child was placed in the home of the petitioner
- The attitude of the child toward the proposed adoption, if the child’s age makes this feasible
- If the child is an Indian child, how the placement complies with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978
- If known, the child’s psychological background, including prior abuse of the child and behavioral problems of the child

The assessor shall provide a copy of the written report of the assessment to the petitioner with the identifying information about the birth or other legal parents redacted.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Rev. Code § 3107.09

An assessor shall record the social and medical histories of the birth parents of a child available for adoption. The assessor shall use the forms prescribed by the Department of Job and Family Services. The assessor shall not include on the forms identifying information about the birth parents or other ancestors of the child.

Social histories shall describe the following about the birth parents:

- Age
- Ethnic, racial, religious, marital, and physical characteristics
- Educational and cultural backgrounds, talents and hobbies, and work experience

Medical histories shall identify:

- Major diseases, malformations, allergies, and ear or eye defects
- Major conditions and major health problems that are or may be congenital or familial

These histories may include other social and medical information relative to the birth parents and shall include social and medical information relative to the child’s other ancestors.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Rev. Code § 3107.12

The assessor shall file the prefinalization report with the court no later than 20 days prior to the date scheduled for the final hearing on the adoption, unless the court determines there is good cause for filing the report at a later date.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 3107.09; 3107.12

An assessor shall record the social and medical histories of the birth parents unless the child is to be adopted by his or her stepparent or grandparent.

A prefinalization assessment is not required if the petitioner is the child’s stepparent, unless, after determining a prefinalization assessment is in the best interests of the child, a court orders that such an assessment.

Oklahoma

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1

Before placing a minor for adoption, the Department of Human Services or a child-placing agency shall compile a written medical and social history report of the minor to be adopted. If a minor is not being placed for adoption through the department or a child-placing agency, the attorney representing the adoptive parent in the adoption proceedings shall compile the report. If the adoptive parent is not represented by an attorney in a direct placement adoption, the person placing the minor for adoption shall compile the report.

The department shall prescribe the form to be used to record the medical history of the minor and the minor’s biological relatives. The department shall furnish the forms to any child-placing agency and to any person who is authorized to place a minor for adoption, or who provides services with respect to placements for adoption.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1

The medical history shall include, but is not limited to, the current medical and psychological histories of the child, including information concerning:

- Any prenatal, neonatal, medical, dental, psychiatric, or psychological diagnoses, examinations, or reports
- Any diseases, illnesses, accidents, allergies, and congenital or birth defects
- A record of any immunization and other health care received
- The child's developmental history, including the ages at which the child developed basic gross motor, fine motor, language, and cognitive skills
- Any behavioral problems the child has exhibited
- Any physical, sexual, or emotional abuse suffered by the child
- Any other information necessary to determine the child's eligibility for State or Federal benefits, including subsidies for adoption and other financial, medical, or similar assistance

The social history report shall include, but is not limited to:

- Educational history, including enrollment and performance in school, the results of educational testing, special educational needs, if any, and the number of years of school completed at the time of the adoption
- The age of the child at the time of the adoption
- The circumstances leading to the adoption
- The heritage of the child including nationality, ethnic background, Tribal affiliation, if any, and race
- The talents, hobbies, and special interests of the child
- An account of the child's past and existing relationships with any individual with whom he or she has regularly lived or visited
- A criminal conviction or delinquency adjudication of the child

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1

Medical history and psychological histories shall include relevant information about the birth parents and relatives, including:

- The obstetric history and health of the birth mother during her pregnancy
- The consumption of drugs, medication, or alcohol by the birth father or mother at the time of conception and by the mother during her pregnancy
- The exposure of the mother to toxic substances or occupational hazards during her pregnancy
- Whether the birth parents are related to each other and to what degree
- Any history of venereal disease afflicting either birth parent
- Physical characteristics, including age at the time of the child's birth; height; weight; and color of eyes, hair, and skin
- Potentially inheritable psychological or physical diseases, disorders, traits, or tendencies
- Allergies, illnesses, and other medical history
- Any addiction or predisposition to addiction to drugs or alcohol
- If the death of either birth parent, other children of either birth parent, or a birth grandparent has occurred, the fact of the death, age at the time of death, and the cause, if known

The social history report regarding the birth parents and other birth relatives shall include:

- The ages of the birth parents, existence of other children of either parent, names of birth grandparents at the time of the adoption, and genders of the other children of either birth parent
- The occupations, talents, hobbies, and special interests of the birth parents and grandparents
- Nonidentifying information about the extended family of the birth parents and grandparents
- The level of educational and vocational achievement of birth parents and relatives and any noteworthy accomplishments
- A criminal conviction, judicial order terminating parental rights, or other proceeding in which a birth parent was alleged to have abused, neglected, abandoned, or otherwise mistreated the child, a sibling, or the other birth parent

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1

The report must be completed before placing a minor for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7504-1.1**

If the petitioner is a stepparent of the child and the child will remain in the custody of one birth parent and the stepparent following the adoption, only the medical and social histories of the parent whose parental rights are sought to be terminated and that parent's birth relatives must be compiled in the report on medical and social histories.

If the petitioner is related to the child, only the medical and social histories of the parent who is not related to the petitioner and the birth relatives of that parent must be completed in the report on medical and social histories.

Oregon**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 109.309; 109.321; 109.342**

The Department of Human Services shall prepare the placement report that contains the child's social and medical history. The department may designate an Oregon licensed adoption agency to prepare the report.

The parent or other person giving consent to the adoption shall provide information about the child's social, medical, and genetic history to an attorney, the department, or an Oregon licensed adoption agency. The department shall prescribe a form for the compilation of the medical history.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 109.309; 109.342**

When possible, the medical history shall include, but need not be limited to:

- A medical history of the adopted child from birth up to the time of adoption
- Any diseases, disabilities, congenital, or birth defects
- Records of medical examinations of the child, if any

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 109.309; 109.342**

Information gathered for the placement report may include information concerning the birth parent's history.

When possible, the medical history shall include, but need not be limited to:

- Physical characteristics of the birth parents, including age at the time of the adopted child's birth; height; weight; and color of eyes, hair, and skin
- A gynecologic and obstetric history of the birth mother
- A record of potentially inheritable genetic or physical traits or tendencies of the birth parents or their families
- Any other useful or unusual biological information that the birth parents are willing to provide

The names of the birth parents shall not be included in the medical history.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 109.309; 109.342**

Within 90 days after being notified that a petition for adoption has been filed with the court, the department shall investigate and file for the consideration of the judge before whom the petition for adoption is pending a placement report containing information regarding the status of the child.

Before any judgment of adoption of a minor is entered, the court shall be provided a medical history of the child and of the birth parents that is as complete as possible under the circumstances.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 109.309; 109.342**

The department may waive the placement report requirement but shall waive the placement report requirement in an adoption proceeding in which one of the child's birth parents or adoptive parents retains parental rights.

The requirement to provide a medical history does not apply when a person is adopted by a stepparent.

Pennsylvania

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 23 §§ 2533; 2535

The investigation may be made by a local public child care agency, a voluntary child care agency, or an appropriate person designated by the court. In lieu of the investigation, the court may accept an investigation made by the agency that placed the child or the report made by the intermediary who arranged the placement of the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 23 §§ 2533; 2535

The report of the intermediary shall include:

- The name, sex, racial background, age, date and place of birth, and religious affiliation of the child
- A full description and statement of the value of all property owned or possessed by the child
- A statement that medical history information was obtained or, if not obtained, a statement of why it was not obtained

The investigation shall cover all pertinent information regarding the child's eligibility for adoption and the suitability of the placement, including the physical, mental, and emotional needs and welfare of the child.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Cons. Stat. Ch. 23, §§ 2533; 2535

The report of the intermediary shall include:

- The name, age, and marital status at the time of the birth of the child and during 1 year prior
- The racial backgrounds and religious affiliations of the birth parents
- The parents' residence if their parental rights have not been terminated
- A statement that medical history information was obtained or, if not obtained, a statement of why it was not obtained

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Cons. Stat. Ch. 23, §§ 2533; 2535

When a report of intention to adopt has been filed, the court shall cause an investigation to be made and a report filed by a local public child care agency, a voluntary child care agency with its consent, or an appropriate person designated by the court. In lieu of the investigation, the court may accept an investigation made by the agency that placed the child and the report of investigation in such cases may be incorporated into the report of the intermediary required by § 2533.

Within 6 months after filing the report of intention to adopt, the intermediary who arranged the adoption placement shall make a written report under oath to the court in which the petition for adoption will be filed and shall thereupon forthwith notify in writing the adopting parent or parents of the fact that the report has been filed and the date thereof.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Puerto Rico

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 32, § 2699e

The Department of the Family, or any private adoption agency licensed by the department, shall report to the court on the expert social study completed on a minor or disabled child who is the subject of an adoption petition. In those cases in which the court appoints a professional; qualified as an expert and licensed in the field of social work, psychiatry, or psychology; at the request of the petitioners, to perform the report on the corresponding expert social study, it shall determine the fee to be paid by the petitioners or the department, with due consideration of the welfare and comfort of the adopted person.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 32, § 2699e

The report shall contain the following:

- The social background record of the adopted child
- A recommendation on whether the adoption is in the child's best interests
- Comments on the reasons that justify the divesting of parental rights of the birth parents

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 32, § 2699e**

The report shall contain the social background record of the adopted child's birth parent or parents.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 32, § 2699e**

The report on the expert social study shall be rendered within a maximum of 30 days from the date of the notice of the petition.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Rhode Island**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Gen. Laws § 15-7-2.1**

In those cases where a child is placed for adoption by the Department of Children, Youth and Families or a licensed child-placing agency, the agency shall provide a preadoption report in writing to the prospective adoptive parents.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Gen. Laws § 15-7-2.1**

The preadoptive report shall include the following information that is reasonably available within the records of the department or the licensed child placing agency that is placing the child for adoption:

- Current medical, dental, developmental, and psychological history of the child
- An account of the child's prenatal care, medical condition at birth, and developmental milestones
- Any medical, psychological, or psychiatric examinations and diagnoses
- Any physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect suffered by the child
- Any developmental assessment and a record of any immunizations and health care received while the child was in foster or other care
- The child's enrollment and performance in school and any special educational needs
- Any adjudications of waywardness and/or delinquency
- The results of any genetic testing the child has undergone
- The results of any testing for HIV
- The length of time the child has been in the care of the agency and the child's placement history
- Any information necessary to determine the child's eligibility for State or Federal benefits

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Gen. Laws § 15-7-2.1**

The preadoptive report also shall include the following:

- The age, race, religion, ethnicity, and general physical appearance of each birth parent
- The educational levels of the birth parents, including any known diagnosed learning disabilities
- The relationship of the birth parents
- The ages and sexes of any other children born to the birth parents
- If a parent is deceased, the cause of and the age at death
- Nonidentifying medical, substance abuse, and mental health histories of the birth parents and siblings
- Drugs and medications taken by the child's birth mother during pregnancy
- Any known allergies and hereditary, genetic, or metabolic diseases
- The circumstances of any judicial order terminating the parental rights of a parent for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or other mistreatment of the child

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Gen. Laws § 15-7-2.1**

The report shall be provided to the prospective adoptive parents as early as practical after the filing of a termination of parental rights or direct consent adoption petition and before a prospective adoptive parent agrees to accept the child for purposes of adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Gen. Laws § 15-7-2.1**

This section does not apply to a stepparent adoption or the adoption of a child related to the petitioner by marriage, blood, or adoption.

South Carolina**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Laws §§ 63-9-520; 63-9-1340**

The agency or person who places the child for adoption shall complete the investigations and reports.

The public adoption agency within the Department of Social Services shall monitor and evaluate all public placements to insure that placements are suitable and in the best interests of the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Laws § 63-9-520**

A background information investigation shall provide a medical and developmental history of the adopted child.

A postplacement investigation and report of this investigation must answer all of the following:

- The race, sex, and age of the adopted child
- Whether the child is suitable for adoption by the prospective adoptive parent
- The reason for the child's placement away from the birth parents
- Whether the child, if of appropriate age and mental capacity, desires to be adopted

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Laws § 63-9-520**

A background information investigation and a report of this investigation may not disclose the identities of the birth parents of the adopted child and shall provide medical histories of the child's birth family including parents, siblings, and other family members related to the child, including ages, sexes, races, and any known genetic, psychological, metabolic, or familial disorders.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Laws § 63-9-520**

Before the final hearing for adoption of a child, investigations and reports must be completed as follows:

- Before the placement of any child by any agency or by any person with a prospective adoptive parent, a background investigation must be completed.
- A postplacement investigation and report of this investigation must be completed after the filing of the adoption petition.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Laws § 63-9-1110**

When a person adopts the child of his or her spouse or a child to whom he or she is related by blood or marriage, no investigation or report, required under the provisions of § 63-9-520, is required unless otherwise directed by the court.

South Dakota**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 25-6-10**

The circuit court shall direct that an investigation be made by one of the following:

- A court services officer or other officer of the court
- An agent of the Department of Social Services
- Some other discreet and competent person

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 25-6-13**

The report to the court shall include the full adoptive name, date of birth, sex, color or race, and place of birth of the adopted child.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 25-6-15.2**

Nonidentifying information, if known, shall be made available to the adoptive parent, or to the adopted person upon reaching age 18. This information or any part thereof may be withheld only if it is of such a nature that it would tend to identify a birth relative of the adopted person. Nonidentifying information is:

- The ages of the birth parents at the time of the adopted person's birth
- The heritage of each birth parent, including nationality, ethnic background, and race
- Education, including the number of years of school completed by the birth parents at the time of the adopted person's birth
- The general physical appearance of the birth parents at the time of the adopted person's birth in terms of height; weight; color of hair, eyes, and skin; and other information of a similar nature
- The talents, hobbies, and special interests of the birth parents
- The existence of any other children born to either birth parent before the adopted person's birth
- Whether it was a voluntary or involuntary termination of parental rights
- The religions of the birth parents
- The occupations of birth parents in general terms
- The health histories of the birth parents and blood relatives
- The relationship of the birth parents

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 25-6-23**

When a court enters a decree terminating parental rights, the parent shall complete a medical and social history form that shall be supplied by the Department of Social Services. When completed, the form shall be filed with the court of the State where the adoption proceedings shall take place.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 25-6-10**

In the case of a stepparent adopting a stepchild, the circuit court may, in its discretion, order an investigation.

Tennessee**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code § 36-1-133**

The Department of Child Services shall provide nonidentifying information about the birth family from the adopted person's sealed adoption record.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 36-1-116; 36-1-133**

The petition to adopt must include:

- The court report required by law on the investigation of the conditions and antecedents of the child sought to be adopted
- The birth date, State, and county or country of birth of the child, if known
- The value of the personal and real property owned by the child or in which the child may have some legal or equitable interest

The information that may be released from the sealed adoption record shall include only the following:

- The date and time of the birth of the adopted person, and the person's weight and other physical characteristics at birth
- The available health history of the adopted person, including specifically any psychological or psychiatric information that would be expected to have any substantial effect on the adopted person's mental or physical health

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 36-1-111; 36-1-133**

As part of the surrender or parental consent process, the court or other persons authorized to accept a surrender or parental consent, may accept notarized statements containing medical or social background information about the surrendering or consenting birth parent.

The information that may be released from the sealed adoption record shall include only the following:

- The nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, races, and religious preferences of the birth or legal relatives
- The educational levels, general occupations, and any talents or hobbies of the birth or legal relatives
- General physical descriptions of the birth or legal relatives, including height, weight, color of hair, color of eyes, complexion, and other similar information
- Whether the birth or legal parent had any other children, and if so, any available nonidentifying information about such children
- Available health histories of the adopted person's birth or legal relatives, including specifically any psychological or psychiatric information that would be expected to have any substantial effect on the adopted person's mental or physical health

When the Report Is Made

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Texas

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Family Code § 162.005

The Department of Family and Protective Services, a licensed child-placing agency, or the child's parent or guardian shall compile a report on the available health, social, educational, and genetic histories of the child to be adopted.

If the child has been placed for adoption by a person or entity other than the department, a licensed child-placing agency, or the child's parent or guardian, it is the duty of the person or entity who places the child for adoption to prepare the report.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Family Code § 162.007

The health history of the child must include information about:

- The child's health status at the time of placement
- The child's birth, neonatal, and other medical, psychological, psychiatric, and dental history information
- A record of immunizations for the child
- The available results of medical, psychological, psychiatric, and dental examinations of the child

The social history of the child must include information, to the extent known, about past and existing relationships between the child and the child's siblings, parents by birth, extended family, and other persons who have had physical possession of or legal access to the child.

The educational history of the child must include, to the extent known, information about:

- The enrollment and performance of the child in educational institutions
- Results of educational testing and standardized tests for the child
- Special educational needs, if any, of the child

The report shall include a history of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse suffered by the child, if any.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Family Code § 162.007

The genetic history of the child must include a description of the child's birth parents and their parents, any other child born to either of the child's parents, and extended family members and must include, to the extent the information is available, the following information about the child's birth parents:

- Their health and medical histories, including any genetic diseases and disorders
- Their health statuses at the time of placement
- The causes of and their ages at death
- Their height, weight, eye color, and hair color
- Their nationalities and ethnic backgrounds
- Their general levels of educational and professional achievements, if any
- Their religious backgrounds, if any

- Any psychological, psychiatric, or social evaluations, including the dates of the evaluations, any diagnoses, and a summary of any findings
- Any criminal conviction records relating to a misdemeanor or felony classified as an offense against the person or family or public indecency, or a felony violation of a statute intended to control the possession or distribution of a substance
- Any information necessary to determine whether the child is entitled to or otherwise eligible for State or Federal financial, medical, or other assistance

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Family Code § 162.005**

The report must be prepared before placing a child for adoption. The person or entity that places the child for adoption shall provide the prospective adoptive parents a copy of the report as early as practicable before the first meeting of the adoptive parents with the child.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions**Citation: Family Code § 162.005**

This section does not apply to an adoption by the child's grandparent; aunt or uncle by birth, marriage, or prior adoption; or stepparent.

Utah**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Code § 78B-6-143**

The person who proceeded on behalf of the petitioner for adoption, or a child-placing agency if an agency is involved in the adoption, shall file a report with the Office of Vital Records and Vital Statistics within the Department of Health.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 78B-6-143; 78B-6-103**

The report shall include a detailed health history and genetic and social histories of the adopted child. The health history will include a comprehensive report of the adopted child's health status at the time of placement for adoption, as well as medical information that will include neonatal, psychological, physiological, and medical care histories.

The report may not contain any information that identifies the adopted child's birth parents or members of their families.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 78B-6-143; 78B-6-103**

The genetic and social histories will be comprised of comprehensive information, when obtainable, on the adopted child's birth parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents, that contains the following:

- Medical histories
- Health status
- Causes of and ages at death
- Height, weight, eye color, and hair color
- Ethnic origins
- Where appropriate, levels of education and professional achievement
- Religion, if any

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code § 78B-6-143**

The report shall be filed upon finalization of an adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Vermont

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 15A, § 2-105

The parent or agency placing the child shall provide in writing to the prospective adoptive parent nonidentifying information that is reasonably available from the parents, relatives, or guardian of the child; the agency; any person who has had physical custody of the minor for 30 days or more; or any person who has provided health, psychological, educational, or similar services to the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 15A, § 2-105

The report shall provide the social and health histories of the child, including:

- Date, time, and place of birth
- First and middle name as given by the parent
- Current health history, including an account of the child's prenatal care, medical condition at birth, and any drug or medication taken by the child's mother during pregnancy
- Any subsequent medical, psychological, psychiatric, and dental information and diagnosis
- A record of any immunizations and health care received while in foster or other care
- Any physical, sexual, or emotional abuse known to have been experienced by the child
- Enrollment and performance in school, results of educational testing, and any special educational needs
- An account of the child's past and existing relationship(s) with any relative, foster parent, or other person with whom the child has lived or visited on a regular basis

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 15A, § 2-105

The report shall provide the social and health histories of the child's parents and extended family, including:

- Health and genetic history, including:
 - » Any known hereditary condition or disease
 - » The current health of each parent
 - » A summary of the findings of any medical, psychological, or psychiatric evaluation of each parent completed prior to placement
 - » History of use of drugs and alcohol
 - » If a parent is deceased, the cause of and the age at death
- Racial, ethnic, and religious background
- A general physical description
- The levels and types of educational, vocational, athletic, artistic, or scientific achievement or interests, including academic performance and diagnosed learning problems
- The date of birth and sex of any other child of the parents and whether or not those children have been removed from the parent's custody or placed for adoption
- The facts and circumstances related to the consent or relinquishment or termination of parental rights
- Any information necessary to determine the child's eligibility for State or Federal benefits, including financial, medical, or other assistance

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 15A, § 2-105

The report must be provided in writing to the prospective adoptive parent before the child is placed for adoption.

Before the final hearing on a petition for adoption, a person or agency that placed a minor for adoption shall provide to the prospective adoptive parent a supplemental written report containing any information that was unavailable before the child was placed but becomes reasonably available after the placement.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Virgin Islands

These issues are not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Virginia

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Code § 63.2-1208

Upon receipt of the petition, the circuit court shall immediately enter an order referring the case to a child-placing agency to conduct an investigation and prepare a report, unless no investigation is required pursuant to this chapter.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Code § 63.2-1208

The investigation requested by the circuit court shall include:

- The physical and mental condition of the child
- The circumstances under which the child came to live, and is living, in the physical custody of the petitioner
- Whether the child is suitable for adoption by the petitioner

The report shall include a statement by the child-placing agency that all reasonably ascertainable background, medical, and psychological records of the child have been provided to the prospective adoptive parent(s). The report also shall include a list of such records provided.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Code § 63.2-1208

The investigation requested by the circuit court shall include:

- Why the parents, if living, desire to be relieved of the responsibility for the custody, care, and maintenance of the child and what their attitude is toward the proposed adoption
- Whether the parents have abandoned the child or are morally unfit to have custody

The report shall include the relevant physical and mental histories of the birth parents, if known to the person making the report.

The child-placing agency shall document in the report all efforts it made to encourage birth parents to share information related to their physical and mental histories. However, nothing in this subsection shall require that an investigation of the physical and mental histories of the birth parents be made.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Code § 63.2-1208

Upon receiving the order from the circuit court, the applicable agency shall make a thorough investigation and report thereon in writing to the circuit court within 60 days.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 63.2-1242; 1242.1; 1242.2; 1242.3

For adoption by a stepparent, an investigation and report shall be undertaken only if the circuit court, in its discretion, determines that there should be an investigation before a final order of adoption is entered.

For adoption by a close relative, the following conditions apply:

- If the child has resided with the relative for less than 3 years, an investigation and a report shall not be made if the home study report is filed with the circuit court, unless the circuit court in its discretion requires an investigation and report to be made.
- If the child has resided with the relative for 3 or more years, an investigation and a report shall not be made, unless the circuit court in its discretion shall require an investigation and report to be made.

For the purposes of this chapter, a close relative placement shall be an adoption by the child's grandparent, great-grandparent, adult nephew or niece, adult brother or sister, adult uncle or aunt, or adult great-uncle or great-aunt.

Washington

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 26.33.350; 26.33.380

A medical and family social history report shall be made by any person, firm, society, association, corporation, or State agency receiving, securing a home for, or otherwise caring for a minor child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 26.33.350; 26.33.380

The report to the prospective adopting parent shall include complete medical report containing all known and available information concerning the mental, physical, and sensory handicaps of the child. Where known or available, the information provided shall include:

- A review of the child's previous medical history, including the child's x rays, examinations, hospitalizations, and immunizations
- A physical exam of the child by a licensed physician with appropriate laboratory tests and x rays
- A referral to a specialist, if indicated
- A written copy of the evaluation with recommendations to the adoptive family receiving the report

A family background and child and family social history report shall also be provided. This report shall include a chronological history of the circumstances surrounding the adoptive placement and any available psychiatric reports, psychological reports, court reports pertaining to dependency or custody, or school reports. Such reports or information shall not reveal the identities of the birth parents of the child but shall contain reasonably available nonidentifying information.

Entities and persons obligated to provide information under this section shall make reasonable efforts to locate records and information concerning the child's mental, physical, and sensory handicaps or the child's family background and social history. The entities or persons providing the information have no duty, beyond providing the information, to explain or interpret the records or information regarding the child's present or future health.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 26.33.350; 26.33.380

Where known or available, the information provided shall include a review of the birth family's medical history. The report shall not reveal the identity of the birth parent of the child, except as authorized under this chapter, but shall include any known or available mental or physical health history of the birth parent that needs to be known by the adoptive parent to facilitate proper health care for the child or that will assist the adoptive parent in maximizing the developmental potential of the child.

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 26.33.350; 26.33.380

The report shall be transmitted to the prospective adopting parent prior to placement, and it shall be made available to all persons with whom a child has been placed by adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

West Virginia

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Code § 48-23-601

The licensed adoption agency or, where an agency is not involved, the person, entity, or organization handling the adoption, shall compile and provide to the prospective adoptive parents a detailed, written, health history and genetic and social histories of the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Code §§ 48-23-601; 48-23-207

The prospective adoptive parents shall be given a detailed written health history and genetic and social history of the child. A health history is a comprehensive report of the child's health status at the time of placement for adoption and medical history, including neonatal, psychological, physiological, and medical care history.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 48-23-601; 48-23-206**

A genetic and social history is a comprehensive report on the birth parents, siblings to the birth parents, if any, other children of either birth parent, if any, and parents of the birth parents that shall contain the following information:

- Medical history
- Health status
- Cause of and age at death
- Height, weight, eye color, and hair color
- Ethnic origins
- Where appropriate, levels of educational and professional achievement
- Religion, if any

These histories must exclude information that would identify birth parents or members of a birth parent's family.

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Code § 48-23-601**

The report must be provided to the prospective adoptive parents prior to placement of the child for adoption.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Wisconsin**Agency or Person Preparing the Report****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 48.425**

The Department of Children and Families, a county department, or a licensed child welfare agency shall file a report with the court that shall include the social history and medical records of the child.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 48.425**

The report shall include:

- The social history of the child
- A medical record of the child on a form provided by the department that shall include:
 - » A report describing the child's prenatal care and medical condition at birth
 - » The medical and genetic history of the child and any other relevant medical and genetic information

Contents of Report About the Birth Family**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 48.425**

The report shall include:

- The medical and genetic histories of the birth parents, and any medical and genetic information furnished by the birth parents about the child's grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, and sisters
- A report of any medical examination that either birth parent had within 1 year before the date of the petition

When the Report Is Made**Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 48.425; 48.93**

The report shall be completed when a petition for the termination of parental rights is filed.

At the time a court enters an order granting an adoption, a copy of the report shall be provided to the adoptive parents. The names and addresses of the child's birth parents and the identity of any provider of health care to the child or the child's birth parents shall be deleted from that copy of the report.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Wyoming

Agency or Person Preparing the Report

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 1-22-111

The court may order the Department of Family Services or a private licensed agency to investigate and report to the court the background of the child and the medical, social, and psychological background and status of the consenting parent and putative father.

Contents of Report About the Adopted Person

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 1-22-116

To the extent available, the medical history of an adoptive child shall be provided to the child's adoptive parent.

Contents of Report About the Birth Family

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 1-22-116

The medical, social, and psychological histories of the birth parents shall include, but not be limited to:

- All available information regarding conditions or diseases believed to be hereditary
- Any drugs or medications taken during pregnancy by the child's birth mother
- Any other information that may be a factor influencing the child's present or future health

When the Report Is Made

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 1-22-116

To the extent available, the medical histories of an adoptive child and his or her birth parents, with information identifying the birth parents eliminated, shall be provided to the child's adoptive parent any time after the adoption decree or to the child after he or she attains the age of majority.

Exceptions for Stepparent or Relative Adoptions

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

