

HoltInternational

FINDING FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

Dear Adoptee,

Thank you for contacting Holt International's Post Adoption Services (PAS) program. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. We look forward to helping you gather information about your background and offer the following services:

1. Registration in the Voluntary Adoption Registry (VAR).

The VAR is a passive registry. This means that no search is conducted. If you choose to register, we inform your birth country of your registration. Your openness to contact by your birth family is made part of your file in your birth country.

If one of your birth family members comes forward, we will contact you. If your birth family member also registers and if you are still open to it, you will receive contact information for them and they will receive contact information for you.

Registration requires filling out the Affidavit for Identifying information, having your signature notarized, and returning it with a copy of your US birth certificate or naturalization. There is no fee for this service.

2. A copy of everything about you (your child material) in your file at our headquarters in Eugene, Oregon.

In most, but not all, cases what is in our file here is the same information that your adoptive parents received before you were placed with them. To request a copy of your child material, please send us a letter with your signature, stating that you would like to receive a copy of your child material from the file at our headquarters. Please enclose the fee of \$25 with the letter. Please allow 2-3 weeks for file retrieval, copying, and mailing.

3. A copy of everything about you in your file in your birth country and an assessment of your file there. The assessment addresses the question, "Is there enough information in the file for the overseas agency to search for your birth parent/s?"

Although some birth countries have not maintained a separate file, some, such as Korea, have. If your birth country has maintained a separate file, you may request a copy of it. In most, but not all, cases what is in the file in your birth country is the same information that we have here and that your adoptive parents received when you were adopted.

** Please note that we must hold requests for copies of files in Korea between late May and early September. Our partner agency in Korea is overwhelmed during those months responding

to requests from families and adult adoptees who are visiting their offices in person. If you make a request during those months through us, we will pass it to our partner in Korea in early September when they can resume services to people who are not traveling to Korea.

To request a copy of your international file and an assessment of that file for the likelihood of a successful search, please send us a letter with your signature, requesting this service and enclose the fee of \$25. Please allow 4-6 weeks for file retrieval, copying, overseas mail, and domestic mailing.

4. An Assisted Search.

This option is for those who wish Holt International to undertake a search for your birth parent/s in conjunction with our overseas partner in your birth country. To pursue this option you will need to register in the Voluntary Adoption Registry (see 1) and also fill out the Assisted Search Application.

We recommend that you write an introductory letter to your birth family and include photos when you request a search.

There is no fee for this service.

5. Scholarships

If fees pose a financial hardship to you, please consider applying for a scholarship. Scholarship applications are available from the Post Adoption Services program, pas@holtinternational.org.

6. An Independent Search.

If your Assisted Search fails to find your birth parents, you still have the option of pursuing an independent search. We can inform you how to do so in Korea and in a few other countries as well.

7. Recommendations:

We recommend that adoptees gather a complete set of their documents from their adoptive parents and/or from Holt. We also recommend that an assessment of the file be done before investing the money in an Assisted Search. Finally, we recommend that an Assisted Search be undertaken, if such a search is possible, before an independent search.

8. Completed documents:

Please send your completed documents to:

Post Adoption Services
Holt International Children's Services

PO Box 2880
Eugene, OR 97402

9. For further information:

Please consult the articles on post adoption services and the frequently asked questions (FAQ) about adoption records, search, and medical history on our web pages. There are links to the three articles below and to the FAQs on the following page: <http://www.holtintl.org/adoptees/>.

"Searching for Birth Parents" by Hollee McGinnis offers ten questions for you to think about in regard to birth search. "Search and Reunion in International Adoption" by Susan Cox offers additional thoughts to consider regarding undertaking an international search. The article, "Search and Reunion through Holt," by Laura Hofer, LCSW, is useful in giving the big picture about search and reunion, particularly in Korea.

We look forward to serving you. Please let us know at any point in the process if you have any questions or concerns, we're always glad to help any way we can.

Sincerely,

Debby Hanson
Administrative Coordinator
Post Adoption Services