



## **Searches into origins** for foreign-born persons adopted by persons domiciled in Québec

Québec 





## Secrétariat à l'adoption internationale

The Secrétariat à l'adoption internationale (SAI) performs the functions of a Central Authority for Québec on behalf of the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux.

The SAI keeps all the files of foreign-born persons adopted by persons domiciled in Québec and responds to requests for **searches into origins**.

Adopted persons often have questions about their origins. Foreign-born persons adopted by domiciled in Québec can **contact the SAI** to obtain a **summary of their social and biological origins** or to submit a request for a **reunion**.



## Summary of social and biological origins

The summary of social and biological origins is a summary of an adoption file. It contains information which can legally be disclosed, such as:

- The usual first name of the child before adoption
- The hour, date and place of birth
- The child and parents' medical information
- The circumstances surrounding the adoption
- The profile of the biological parents, including their age, marital status, language, religion, ethnic origin, education level, occupation and lifestyle

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The summary may contain other information on the adopted person, such as the date of their placement, the year of their legal adoption and their development within the adoptive family.

In all cases, the identity of the persons concerned by the adoption file remains confidential.

The summary of social and biological origins is not accessible to everyone. It is given out on request and only:

- To the adopted person aged 14 or older
- To the adopted person under age 14 with the consent of the adoptive parents
- To the adoptive parents
- To the biological parents
- To a close relative of the adopted person, if that relative has the permission of a court

# Reunions

When a foreign-born person adopted by persons domiciled in Québec wants to reunite with a biological parent, the SAI calls on its partners and the authorities responsible for international adoption in the adopted person's country of origin to find and inform the parent. This process is carried out in accordance with the laws and standards of the country of origin, while respecting the privacy of the persons concerned.

If the biological parent is found, the SAI ensures that they consent to having their identity revealed and to meeting with their biological child, prior to the reunion.

In some cases, the search can prove difficult or even impossible. For example:

- When foreign laws prohibit the disclosure of information concerning the adopted person and their biological parents
- When there are no official records in the country of origin
- When the foreign government refuses to respond to search requests

If the request for a reunion comes from a biological parent, the foreign-born person adopted by persons domiciled in Québec will be informed when they reach the age of 18.

## Contact the SAI

A person wishing to obtain a summary of social and biological origins or to submit a request for reunion must contact the SAI, which will assess their situation and send them the forms to fill out.

- By telephone: **514-873-5226**  
or **1-800-561-0246** (toll free)

- By mail:

**Secrétariat à l'adoption internationale**

Secteur de la recherche des origines

201, boulevard Crémazie Est, bureau 1.01

Montréal (Québec) H2M 1L2

- By fax: **514-873-1709**

- By email:

**[adoption.quebec@msss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:adoption.quebec@msss.gouv.qc.ca)**



For more information on international adoption,  
please visit the following website:

**[adoption.gouv.qc.ca](http://adoption.gouv.qc.ca)**

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