

Tracing Living Relatives

You must be extremely careful using Family History websites if living people might be affected, because the very people you are looking for may not wish to be found and we must always respect this. Whatever their reasons, they are entitled to their point of view, e.g. Some people are suspicious of anything to do with the internet, simply because they don't understand it and have heard all sorts of horror stories, and some are just plain scared that you are *after their money* and recently this has been compounded by concerns of identity theft.

If they want to be found they will be on sites like Genes Reunited.

Family History forums are not the place to start looking for Adopted Relatives as it can cause great misery and distress, and will not be allowed here. Enquiries on open website forums can open painful memories for the people concerned, which they had hoped and prayed were long forgotten by everyone, and they had hoped to take their secrets to the grave with them and this was often the case with illegitimate children, many of whom were adopted.

Attitudes began to change in the 1960's, as society became more tolerant, and often the parents of adopted children, have put it behind them and moved on, but the spouse and later children may be ignorant of the adopted child for most of their lives and they may never know. This situation can lead to questions of trust and openness that can rock relationships.

For enquiries about adoptions contact Social Services at the County Council. There are strict rules governing Adoption. The UK Adoption and Children Act 2005 requires professional counselling prior to initial contact between Adoptees and birth relatives and this is to protect all parties.

Social Services have leaflets on tracing adopted children and birth families, and details of the Adopted Persons Contact Registers are also available through them. They also have the expertise, to guide you through it all.

Further reading:

<http://www.adoptionsearchreunion.org.uk/>

<http://www.norcap.co.uk/>

The above was put together by May Brace with assistance from Slowhands.

Forest of Dean Family History

<http://www.forest-of-dean.net/>

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