ADOPTION SEARCH AND REUNION

NI – “non-identifying” information (see explanation)

	Information released to adult adoptee				Court order required to be filed by adult adoptee			Information released to birth family members			Information released to adoptive parents		Registration required with state or mutual consent registries		Other requirements for NI information to be released					
State	direct access of NI information to adult adoptee	legal right to know one’s own birth info	request of adult adoptee filled unless birth parent filed affidavit denying release of confidential records	access to original birth certificate at request of adult adoptee	court order required for adult adoptee to obtain original birth certificate	court order required once all parties have been considered	NI info released unless non-consent filed	NI info released only to birth parents	NI info could also be released to adult birth siblings	affidavit system used by state – birth family members file consent to release NI info or register refusal	NI info released only to adoptive parents	adoptive parents can request state registry contact birth parents, if medically necessary	registration with state reunion registry required	registration with mutual consent registry required	mutual consent before NI provided	court petition require for release	requires counseling regarding possible consequences of search	court order for release of NI info required	uses confidential intermediaries	Putative father registries
Alabama	*			*				*		*		*							*	#^
Alaska		*		*						*										
Am. Samoa																		*		
Arizona					*			*	*					*	*					#^
Arkansas					*			*						*	*		*			
California					*					*	*				*					
Colorado					*			*	*					*	*				*	
Connecticut								*							*		**	*		
DC																				
Delaware	*	^^		*				*												
Florida		*			*										*					
Georgia		*			*										*					#^
Guam															*			*		
Hawaii		*			*		*%													
Idaho		*				*					*				*					#^
Illinois		*										*			*				*	#^
Indiana		*					*%	*	*						*					#^
Iowa		*			*										*					
Kansas		*		*	*							*								#^
Kentucky					*					*					*					#^
Louisiana					*			*							*					#^
Maine	*			*											*					
Maryland							*%	*				*			*					
Massachusetts					*			*		*										#^
Michigan ++								*	*						*				*	
Minnesota ++		^^	*							*		*			*					#^

Mississippi						*		*	*	*		*					*			
Missouri ++					*										*					#^
Montana		^^						*	*						*				*	
Nebraska			*				*%			*										
Nevada					*						*				*					
N Hampshire	*	*		*	*			*							*					
New Jersey					*					*	*							*		
New Mexico					*			*	*	*					*					#^
New York					*			*	*				*		*					#^
North Carolina					*			*	*										*	
N. Dakota					*			*							*				*	
Ohio ++		^^					*%	*	*						*					#^
Oklahoma		^^						*	*				*		*				*	#^
Oregon	*			*				*							*					#^
Pennsylvania			*							*						*				
Puerto Rico																				
Rhode Island			*					*	*				*		*					
South Carolina					*			*							*		*			
South Dakota					*															#^
Tennessee	*	*	*	*				*	*						*					#^
Texas ++					*										*		*			#^
Utah			*					*	*						*					#^
Vermont			*				*%	*	*						*					#^
Virginia					*														*	
Virgin Islands				*											*			*		
Washington		^^	^^					*							*				*	
West Virginia					*			*												
Wisconsin			*							*										#^
Wyoming					*							*			*				*	#^

* state law/regulation indicated
** would prohibit release of NI info if deemed seriously disruptive to parties
++ legislation has been introduced to provide original birth certificate to adult adoptee, but not yet law (courtesy of The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption nstitute)
#^ visit www.adoptioninstitute.org/policy/polputative.html to read state statute on the putative father registry

^^ **list below indicates the legal right to know information released for adoptions finalized**
Delaware (on or after 10/1/97)
Minnesota (on or after 8/1/97)
Montana (on or after 10/1/97)
Ohio (on or after 1996)
Oklahoma (on or after 11/1/97 – when no other birth siblings under age 18 who have been adopted)
Washington (on or after 10/1/93)

***% list below indicates NI information released for adoptions finalized**
Hawaii (after 12/31/93)
Illinois (after 1/1/00)
Indiana (after 12/31/93)
Maryland (after 1/1/00)
Michigan (before 5/28/48 or after 9/12/80)
Minnesota (after 8/1/97)
Nebraska (after 7/20/02)
Ohio (after 1996)

Vermont (after 7/1/1986)