

## **Handout for Adoption Research**

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We will start by discussing Missouri allowing adoptees to obtain their original birth certificate. You will see the form that needs to be filled out and who may obtain this record.

We will also walk through a variety of records that may tell you someone is adopted, and, if you are lucky enough, their birth parent's names.

Next, if you are considering asking someone to DNA test for you, you need to be sure they are biologically the right person to be testing. In this example we will walk through a variety of records that suggest a person is a biological child, only to find out they are not. This is why it is important to do a thorough search before approaching someone and asking them to test. You should never rely on just one record unless an exhaustive search has been done and there are no other records.

If your paper trail doesn't tell you who someone's parents are or how you are related to someone, then DNA testing may be the way to go. The balance of this lecture will be looking at DNA matches.

We will walk through select matches at the below testing companies and walk through the process of determining who they are and how I am related to them.

- Ancestry
- Gedmatch
- FamilyTreeDNA