

DISCLOSURE OF ADOPTION RECORDS
INSTRUCTION SHEET
(Ch.C. Arts. 1186 *et seq*)

Under the laws of the State of Louisiana, all adoption records are CONFIDENTIAL. This means that no information regarding an adoption can be disclosed without an order from the Court that granted the adoption, except that:

1. An adoption agency MAY be willing to disclose nonidentifying information to an adult adopted through that agency. If you know the agency that was involved call that agency for more information. The Court CANNOT tell you what agency or even if an agency was used in any particular adoption.
2. The Department of Social Services MAY have information available to an adult who was a foster child. Call the Department of Social Services, Office of Community services to find out if foster care was involved and/or what information might be available. The Court CANNOT tell you if DSS/OCS was involved in any particular adoption.
3. The Louisiana Voluntary Registry in Baton Rouge MAY be able to match adopted persons with biological parents. Call the Louisiana Voluntary Registry at (504) 342-9922 or (800) 259-2456.

Except as provided above, information contained in adoption records is NOT available upon verbal or written request, EVEN with a signed release or consent from one or all of the parties to the adoption.

The law requires a Court Order and provides a procedure that MUST be followed. Reasons the Court CANNOT grant a Petition for Disclosure:

- To find birthparent(s), adopted child(ren), birth siblings
- To get background or general information regarding the adoption, or any of the above people without a compelling inheritance or medical necessity.

PROCEDURE:

1. Determine in which Court the adoption was finalized.
2. Fill out ALL information on the petition, attach additional pages and any documentation if necessary. **Service information must be completed on page 4.**
3. File the attached Petition for Disclosure together with any documentation, which may substantiate a compelling necessity for any of the grounds listed in Ch.C. Art. 1189.
4. The Court will then either deny or set the petition for hearing. If appropriate, the Court may appoint a curator ad hoc to review the record and pertinent documents to report to the Court. **The Court may order the petitioner to pay the reasonable fees for the curator. To be found indigent and have fees waived, a petitioner must have filed an Petition to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (IFP) with the attached Petition, and the Judge must grant the IFP.**
5. The Court will set a hearing to determine what, if any, information may be disclosed.
6. If the Court grants the petition, it will order disclosure ONLY of information that satisfies the compelling need proven by the petitioner or is required by law.

JUVENILE COURT FOR THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DOCKET NO.: _____

DIV: “___”

IN RE THE ADOPTION OF _____

DOB: _____

FILED: _____

DEPUTY CLERK

PETITION FOR DISCLOSURE OF ADOPTION INFORMATION

NOW INTO COURT comes _____, who petitions this Court for disclosure of information pursuant to Louisiana Children’s Code Article 1186 *et seq* and respectively represents:

I. That your petitioner is

{ } an adopted child.

{ } a legal representative for, and on behalf of a minor adopted child.

{ } other

II. That your petitioner is herein requesting disclosure of the confidential adoption record for the following grounds:

{ } That there are inheritance rights which are or may be due from the adoptee’s biological parents under Civil Code Article 214.

{ } By proof that there is a medical necessity requiring information about the adoptee’s biological family or the adoptee’s own preadoption health history in order to treat the adoptee or the adoptee’s descendants. (Attach required documentation)

{ } By proof that both he and a person reasonably believed to be his biological sibling have registered with the department pursuant to Chapter 15 of this Title. (Attach required documentation)

{ } That such information is otherwise required to be disclosed by federal or state law.

{ } _____.

III. That your petitioner requests disclosure for the following compelling necessity (attach additional sheet and documentation if necessary):

WHEREFORE, your petitioner respectfully requests that this Court order the disclosure of the above requested information.

Respectfully submitted,

Petitioner/Legal Representative of Minor Adoptee

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

JUVENILE COURT FOR THE PARISH OF JEFFERSON

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DOCKET NO.: _____

DIV: “ ____ ”

IN RE THE ADOPTION OF _____

FILED: _____

DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER FOR DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION
FROM SEALED ADOPTION RECORD

CONSIDERING the above and foregoing Petition for Disclosure and the provisions of Louisiana Children’s Code Article 1186 *et seq*, and finding a compelling necessity has been shown;

IT IS ORDERED that the above requested information be disclosed to Petitioner by the adoption clerk of without undue delay.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Mover maintain the confidentiality of all disclosed information to the greatest extent possible under the circumstances of this disclosure.

Harvey, Louisiana, this ____ day of _____ 20____.

JUDGE

ALTERNATIVE ORDER

CONSIDERING the above and foregoing Petition for Disclosure and the provisions of Louisiana Children’s Code Article 1186 *et seq*;

IT IS ORDERED that the Petition for Disclosure be heard on the ____ day of _____, 20____, at ____ a.m. in Section ____.

Harvey, Louisiana, this ____ day of _____ 20____.

JUDGE

Service Instructions on Next Page

PLEASE SERVE:

Petitioner

Address

City/State/Zip

Custodian

Address

City/State/Zip

Custodian

Address

City/State/Zip

Custodian

Address

City/State/Zip