

Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry (MFAR) Frequently Asked Questions

Putative fathers may register with the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry (MFAR), any time after the conception of a child that he believes he has fathered. There are two time sensitive requirements a putative father must meet to insure that he receives notice of a pending adoption. These time requirements are: (1) the filing of a registration form with the MFAR within 30 days after the birth of the child in question; and (2) *after* an adoption petition is filed related in court, a putative father who registered before the child was born or within 30 days of the child's birth must be notified that the petition was filed. The father must also receive information about the court jurisdiction the petition was filed, and must receive an additional 30 days during which they must file their intention to either claim or relinquish their paternal rights.

Who may register on the MFAR?

Any putative father may register with the MFAR, including a person under age 18.

When and how must a putative father register?

A putative father may register any time from conception until years after the child is born. If a putative father registers after the 30th day following birth, his right to receive notice prior to the finalization of an infant adoption is lost, unless he can show proof of why he was unable to timely register, which will likely require court action.

What happens after a man registers?

Once registered, a putative father's information is placed in the MFAR data base. The MFAR data base is searched upon request, and the results of each search are returned to the agent/agency who submitted the request. If a putative father match occurs, the agency requesting the search, **not the Fathers' Adoption Registry**, must send additional forms to the putative father. Those forms are:

ADO102 [Denial of Paternity](#)

ADO104 [Intent to Claim Parental Rights](#)

ADO103 [Notice to Registered Putative Father and Notice of Jurisdiction](#)

Located on the State Courts website at: <http://www.mncourts.gov/default.aspx?page=513&category=41>

Fact Sheet for About MFAR Searches

- 1) [Licensed adoption agencies and private attorneys representing adoptive parents or birth mothers](#)
- 2) [Child support officials – This is the only search where no fee required](#)
- 3) [State Court Administrators](#)
- 4) [Child Protection and Permanency Workers](#)

The birth mother may also search the MFAR. Typically, searches requested by the biological mother may be related to a step-parent adoption. Both the **Biological Mother Search Form**, and the **Step-Mother Search Form** must be notarized by county staff in the jurisdiction where the adoption petition will be filed. All others searching the MFAR may use the **Standard Search** form. The forms are available by clicking on the link in this paragraph, or the MDH website at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/registry/top.htm>

The MFAR must be searched before an adoption can be finalized in Minnesota for all adoptions with the **only** exception being foreign adoptions.