

September 2006

Thank you for your contact with Adoption Information and Referral Services (formerly Adoption Network) at Catholic Charities CYO regarding your adoption. You have requested information about your history and/or about contacting your birth family.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT POST-ADOPTION SERVICES

**Consent for Contact:** There have been changes in California law since you were placed for adoption. A process called Consent for Contact has been established. This means that if the birth parent(s) and the adopted person(s) (over the age of 18) sign unsolicited Consents, the agency can facilitate contact between biological parents and adoptees and/or between adult siblings who were adopted. If placement occurred in January of 1994 or later, the adopted person must be over age 21.

A social worker will be able to answer your questions and/or discuss the consent process. It is your choice whether or not you wish to sign the Consent. Whether or not you choose to sign the consent, we do encourage you to provide information for you file. There is no fee for filing of Consents and/or filing updated information.

**Background information and non-identifying information from file records:**

You can also make a request for background information and non-identifying information from your file records. In order to receive this information, please check the box on the second page of the Consent for Contact and complete the enclosed Information Request Sheet. At least one of these documents must be **notarized**. If you will be coming into our office to obtain background information, you will be asked to show some form of picture identification, such as a driver's license, at the time of your appointment. The fee for preparation of non-identifying information is \$100.00. This covers the time needed to locate records, research files, write, and transmit the information to you. It can take up to three months to prepare a background report. There may be other fees for any additional services that you request. We are committed to a policy that no one is denied service because of inability to pay. A worker will be glad to discuss appropriate fee payments with you. Whether you go forward with this process or not, we always appreciate receiving updated contact information.

We are committed to maintaining your confidentiality as California law stipulates and at your specific request. Your feelings and personal circumstances may have changed over time and you may want to talk about your experiences and feelings with a social worker at our agency. We can also refer you somewhere closer to your home.

**Searching:** If you decide to search for your birth family, it is probably a good idea to work with others who are familiar with the search process. Enclosed you will find a list of adoption information and search groups.

Enclosed are the Consent for Contact and the Non-Identifying Background Information Request forms. Again, you are under no obligation to sign these forms. Please feel free to call should you have any questions at (415) 972-1250.

Sincerely,

Adoption Information and Referral Services  
Catholic Charities CYO

Encl.