

Adopted or Abducted Resources:

Dan Rather Reports has been investigating claims by women throughout the world who claim their babies were taken from them at birth through "forced adoption." And since we first began reporting this story, many people have been reaching out looking for more information on how they can locate those put up for adoption. Although Dan Rather Reports is in no position to make recommendations or provide advise and counsel on this matter, we have asked Troy Dunn, a well-known adoption locator, for his tips:

Adopted or abducted? This question is easy to answer if you are the biological parent who had a child taken from you. But if you are 'adopted' and are not sure what the real story is, the only way to get to the truth is to search out and locate your biological family.

The first step, regardless of which side of the adoption you are on (parent or child) is to make yourself FINDABLE. This is relatively easy in today's digital society.

Step 1. Registries. A Registry is a database which operates on the premise of 'mutual consent' and is the safest way to search or be searchable. You simply register on the registry by providing all of the pertinent facts about the adoption; date and place of birth, known names, doctors, gender, etc. Now if or when the parent or child you seek registers on the same registry, you and they will be instantly matched up!

There are dozens, hundreds of registries in the world but only a few worth being on. The fastest growing registry in the world is the one I founded almost two decades ago and it can be found at TroysList.org. It is 100% free and we have a new reunion from there almost every day! You definitely want to be registered here!

Another registry which I am a proponent of is www.ISRR.org. It is the oldest known registry and is a non-profit organization which takes donations but charges no fees.

The only other registries I consider worthwhile are the individual State registries. Not all States run one and not all of them are effective. But if the State you were born or adopted in has a State registry, it's worth registering for as a third option.

The other very effective way to make yourself "findable" is thru social media. You can set up a Facebook page just for your adoption search. If you are the biological mother, you can post your name at the time of birth, hospital, date of birth of child, etc. If you are the adoptee (child) you can post your date of birth, hospital, delivery doctor, etc. Be sure to turn OFF all privacy settings on this particular page so that if you are being looked for, this page comes up easily. The number of instant reunions happening thru social media is amazing- more and more every day, so use this free and powerful resource.

Aside from Registries and social media (which are a **passive** form of searching) there are a number of **active** ways to search.

Before I give you a few resources to explore, let me offer up this **warning**; be very careful who you turn to for assistance in searching. Every year I hear from well-meaning people who were scammed by ruthless individuals and fraudulent companies posing as professional searches, which only take your money (and sometimes your identity) and leave you empty-handed. There are even some individuals out there who will pose as the person they think you are searching for, in an effort to bilk you out of money and resources, so please be very very careful. Lastly, do not assume that just because somebody is a “licensed private investigator” that they are qualified to conduct a search in your behalf. Adoption searches are extremely difficult and require very specific resources and knowledge. I have seen too many people lose too much money to P.I.’s who make claims they cannot back up. Just because someone can do skip tracing, (locate missing persons) does not mean they are qualified to do an adoption search. In fact, most cannot. If you want to see an example of how companies and individuals will prey upon the vulnerable, Google my name (Troy Dunn) and then watch how many ads pop up from companies offering “locating services” in an effort to lure in those trying to contact me. Some even pretend to be me when you call their offices! For the record- we do not advertise ANYWHERE.

Here are my favorite resources for active searching (full disclosure, I developed some of these):

LocatorClub.com. This is a private, member’s only website I designed and had built to serve those who would like the assistance of me and my team. After 20 plus years of reuniting families, our reputation has created a landslide of thousands of emails a week from wonderful people asking questions, needing tips, wanting assistance, etc. Logistically, there are simply not enough hours in the day to respond to each and every person and too often, I find myself repeating the same things over and over, as most people encounter the same hurdles and challenges in the search process. So we designed LocatorClub.com to be a private classroom where (thru the power of video sessions) I am able to assist everyone who enters by walking the members thru the steps to doing their own search. We also created a private message area for members to be able to get direct assistance from my team and I in a more private, controlled environment. The club has been a tremendous resource for many and has led to many reunions and significant closure. To cover the costs associated with running the site and staffing it, there is a membership fee (currently \$99). A portion of the proceeds goes into a Reunion Scholarship Fund to assist the less fortunate with travel expenses so they can reunite.

For those who simply want to hire a professional investigator to conduct the entire search, we have created a site called **TroyTheLocator.com** where we will take your information and provide you with a trusted third party investigation agency that we have vetted and approved as authentic. You simply fill out the form and submit it and a free evaluation of the merits of your case will be conducted and then you will be contacted if it is believed your case has strong possibilities of being resolved.

I am also a supporter of American Adoption Congress which can be found at Americanadoptioncongress.org. This site has lots of great information and resources. Plus it leads the

way in fighting for the rights of those who have been separated. Worth the visit and perhaps a donation to them if you feel inclined.

For people who are looking for more information on the policy side of adoption, I recommend visiting the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute at www.adoptioninstitute.org. They are an advocacy group who work to improve adoption laws, policies and practices.

For birth parents, there is a resource just for you called C.U.B. (Concerned United Birthparents) and they can be found at **CUBirthparents.org**.

If you need to search some public records, there is a free site I love (just don't get confused by their advertisements which appear to be search tools but are just ads). The site is **SearchSystems.net** and they have the best collection of public records nationwide that I have found. The searches are FREE.

Dan Rather Reports does not endorse any organization, but we want to mention a few other resources that have been suggested to us in the course of this investigation:

www.gsadoptionregistry.com

www.adoptiondatabase.org

www.amfor.net