



FACTSHEET: Introducing Integrated Birth Certificates for adopted people

The Adoption Legislation Amendment (Integrated Birth Certificates) Act 2020 authorises issuing Integrated Birth Certificates to adopted people in NSW.

What is an Integrated Birth Certificate?

An Integrated Birth Certificate (IBC) is a new form of birth certificate that includes information about an adopted person's parents and siblings at birth, as well as their parents and siblings after adoption.

Why was this reform introduced?

Previously, when an adoption order was made in NSW, the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) issued a post-adoptive birth certificate for the adopted person. A post-adoptive birth certificate records the child's adoptive parents and makes no reference to the child's parents at birth.

Post-adoptive birth certificates are consistent with the legal effect of adoption but do not reflect contemporary "open" adoption practices, which promote continued connection to birth family and cultural heritage wherever possible.

Following this reform, the Registrar of BDM will issue a post-adoptive birth certificate *and* an IBC for adopted people. This provides adopted people with a birth certificate that better reflects their full identity.

Will IBCs be recognised as a legal document?

An IBC and post-adoptive birth certificate are both valid identity documents, allowing an adopted person to use whichever birth certificate they prefer for identity purposes.

What will happen when the Act commences?

The Adoption Legislation Amendment (Integrated Birth Certificates) Act 2020 will commence on 16 November 2020.

From that date, where a person is adopted and the adoption is registered in NSW, the Registrar of BDM will automatically issue both a post-adoptive birth certificate and an IBC.

People adopted prior to the commencement of the reform will be able to apply for an IBC.

How do people adopted before the commencement of the Act apply for an IBC?

If the person was adopted on or after 1 January 2010: The Registrar of BDM can issue an IBC to the adopted person on application. The consent of the person's adoptive parents will be required if they are under 18 years of age.

If the person was adopted before 1 January 2010: The Registrar of BDM will require an Adoption Information Certificate from the Department of Communities and Justice before issuing an IBC to the adopted person. If the person is under 18, the application can only be made with the consent of their adoptive parents and birth parents.

Adoptive parents and birth parents can also apply for the adopted person's IBC in certain circumstances.

For more information visit

Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages
www.nsw.gov.au/births-deaths-marriages

Department of Communities and Justice
www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption