Who has requested resources from the Vermont Adoption Registry:

Persons who were adopted
Adoptive Parents
Birth parents/Former parents
Partners of birth parents
Partners of Persons who were adopted
Friends of Persons who were adopted
Birth siblings
Biological Aunts
Biological Grandparents
Individuals who are genetically matched via Ancestry/23andMe/etc, but are not sure how
Descendants of Deceased Persons who were adopted
Guardians of Descendants of Deceased Persons who were adopted
Descendants of Deceased birth/former parents
Court staff
Court staff from other states
Vermont Catholic Charities staff
Vermont Dept of Health, Vital Records
People who were not adopted but had a change on their birth certificate
People inquiring if they were adopted
People adopted in another state
Individuals adopted Internationally
Attorney for birth/former parent
Assistant Attorney General
DCF District Office Staff
Parent of sibling to an adoptee
Genealogist
NH Adoption Registry staff
MA Adoption Registry Staff
Uncle to an adoptee
Therapist

What types of information is regularly requested:

Each request is handled differently due to the type of access individuals may have depending upon their relationship to the adoption. Title 15 A of the Adoption Act defines who may have access to what information.

Identifying information requests
Non-identifying information request
Access to Original birth certificates
Adoption decree requests

Documents needed for passport applications
Access to case file/Foster Care record
Registry facilitated contact between adopted minor child (and parents) with former/birth parent and/or former/birth sibling
Registry facilitated contact between adopted adult, Former/birth parent, Former/birth sibling
Genealogy searches
A sibling to an adoptee inquiring about what information is available and how
A partner to an adoptee inquiring about what information is available and how
Consultation with Family Services Division staff
Naturalization paperwork and questions
Troubleshooting contact challenges between former families and families joined by adoption
Requestor completed a DNA search and questions about findings
How to use the Adoption Registry for correspondence
Post Adoption Contact Agreement correspondence questions
Former/Birth parent or adopted person updating contact info
Medical information requested
Inheritance issues
Parentage proof or proof of TPR
Changing Birth certificate name
Legislation questions - from adopted persons, legislators
Requestors questioning if they were adopted
Health insurance

Other Factors during the Reporting Period:

A new Post-Permanency Manager was onboarded early in the reporting period. The Adoption Registry Coordinator provided opportunities to the PP Manager to become familiar with the policy and practice of the Registry work.

The global pandemic continued during the reporting period, however, with lower transmission, the work of the Adoption Registry was able to continue in a "normative" fashion. Courts, private agencies, and the ability to return to in office work all increased in productivity.

The coordinator engaged with the Permanency Planning Manager and FSD Policy and Planning Advisor to review relevant policies. These include Policy 192 (Use and Disclosure of Adoption Information from Division Records), 194 (Release of Information by the Adoption Registry) and 196 (Post-Adoption Contact Agreements). The review and revisions are not yet completed.

The Adoption Registry was approached by a Vermont State Legislator regarding the possible revision of the Adoption Act as it pertains to releasing identifying information and access to original birth certificates for those adopted prior to July 1, 1986. The Legislative Counsel and Records Officer also approached this office to discuss the contents of the records held by the Adoption Registry, private agencies, VDH, and the judiciary. Both conversations are ongoing.