

## PRIVACY/SECURITY FOR BIRTHPARENTS VIA:

### DNA TESTING + GENEALOGY SEARCH

- Hypothetical adoptee takes a commercial DNA test
- Adoptee receives their results which includes DNA matches with others in the database. A centimorgan is unit of measurement for DNA. The amount of shared centimorgans determine your likely relationship with your DNA match. (see chart following)
- Adopted Person has two 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin matches, sharing 75 cm with one and 147 with the other.
- Adoptee contacts the cousins and asks them to share family information. Uses the cousins' family trees to contact other members of the family. Sends DNA tests to those on the tree, asking if they would take one.
- Other members of family take DNA test, and the centimorgans are evaluated to see if getting closer or further away.
- Vital records are searched to identify possibly familial connections, and more people are contacted by the adoptee. Those people now know that someone they are related to gave up a child for adoption. They often join the search and offer their theories.
- Repeat process, again and again until....
- Adoptee finds birthparent(s) after many of their family members have already been contacted, matched with the adoptee as a relative, and those family members now know the "truth". Secret is not only out to the birthparent, but to possibly dozens of their family members. They are the last to be contacted.

### ADOPTEE RECEIVING OBC WITHOUT RESTRICTION

- Adoptee requests original birth certificate (OBC) from the Department of Health.
- Adoptee receives OBC in the mail a few weeks later.
- Adoptee uses the white pages (online people search) and publicly available vital records to locate their biological parent(s) using their names and former address(es).
- Adoptee contacts birthparent(s) directly.

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- Adoptee takes their OBC and puts in a file, a frame, uses it to make a collage, burns it in a fire, uses as toilet paper, makes a wall-sized mural of its likeness, etc etc etc (ie, does whatever they want to with it)

**WHICH ONE OF THESE ACTIONS OFFER MORE PRIVACY?**