



Dear Enquirer

The following information outlines the process for adult adoption in Western Australia.

In the case of an adult adoption, the relevant parties are defined in Section 69(1)(a) of the *Adoption Act 1994* (the Act) as the prospective adoptee and each of the prospective adoptive parents. An adult can only be adopted by a person who was their step-parent, carer or relative immediately prior to the adult turning 18 years of age.

The Act outlines that a person whose consent is required for an adult adoption must not sign their consent unless they have been provided with both oral and written information as outlined in Schedule 1 of the Act. Schedule 1 information includes alternatives to adoption, available community supports, the social implications of adoption, the legal process, and the rights and responsibilities of the parties to the adoption.

After the Schedule 1 information meeting, affidavits and other documents will be sent to you via registered post. These documents must be included in your application to the Family Court of Western Australia (Court). There is no further involvement from Adoption Services unless requested by the Court.

Although birth parents are not required to consent to an adult adoption, Section 69(4) of the Act requires that written notice of the intention to file an application for an adoption order must be provided to each of the adoptee's birth parents at least 30 days before the application is filed. This notice can be delivered personally or by registered post to the respective birth parent's last known address. If the birth parent is unknown, deceased or cannot be found, the applicant may apply to dispense the requirement to give this notice with a supporting affidavit.

Please note that at the time the application is filed, the prospective adoptee must be present in the state of Western Australia, and either be legally permitted to remain permanently in Australia or have been born in Western Australia. Each prospective adoptive parent must either reside in or be domiciled in Western Australia.

Should you have any questions, please call 1800 182 178 and request to speak to the officer for Adult Adoption.

Yours sincerely

Adoption Services