



FACTSHEET: Introducing Integrated Birth Certificates for adopted people

The Adoption Legislation Amendment (Integrated Birth Certificates) Bill 2020 authorises the issuing of Integrated Birth Certificates to adopted persons in NSW by amending the *Adoption Act 2000* and the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995*.

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 is this reform being introduced?

When an adoption order is made in NSW, the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) issues a post-adoptive birth certificate for the adopted person. The new birth certificate that is issued, 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 promotes connection to birth family and cultural heritage wherever possible.

An IBC better reflects the full identity of an adopted person.

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 legal purposes.

What would happen when the Bill commences?

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 reform 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 an 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