

**Report to:
Utah State Legislature
Health and Human Services Interim
Committee**

**Annual Report on the Effectiveness of
the Utah Mutual Consent, Voluntary
Adoption Registry**

**Prepared by:
Utah Department of Health
Office of Vital Records and Statistics**

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INTRODUCTION

The Utah Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics (OVRs) is pleased to submit this annual report on the effectiveness of the Utah Mutual Consent, Voluntary Adoption Registry as required under Utah Code 78B-6-144 (5). This report highlights the registry's background, effectiveness, and future plans.

REGISTRY BACKGROUND

The Mutual Consent, Voluntary Adoption Registry exists to help adult adoptees, birth parents, and biological siblings locate one another without using the court system or spending excessive amounts of time and money. Participation in the registry is not mandatory and an adult adoptee and/or birth relative may refuse participation in the registry. A registry match occurs when an adult adoptee born in Utah and his or her birth parent or an adoptee's biological sibling voluntarily place their name on the registry. Since its inception in 1987, the registry has made over 300 matches that have led adult adoptees born in Utah to reunite with birth families.

REGISTRY EFFECTIVNESS

OVRs uses two performance measures to measure the effectiveness of the adoption registry: number of names added to the registry and number of successful registry matches. The table below shows improvement over the past three years in regard to both measures.

	Names Added to Registry	Successful Matches
2012	28	14
2013	84	20
2014	98	34

FUTURE PLANS

During the 2015 Legislative Session, Utah lawmakers passed Senate Bill 77 which appropriated funding to automate and improve the Utah Mutual-Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry. OVRs plans to use the funding to:

1. Convert registry information from a paper-based data into an electronic format that can be imported into a searchable registry database;
2. Develop an electronic registry database that allows use of broad search terms and methods; and
3. Implement an adoption registry public education plan to include information materials and social media.

The improvements will help OVRS achieve four outcomes: (1) increase the number of names on the registry; (2) increase the number of registry searches; (3) increase the number of registry matches; and (4) decrease the staff time necessary to find adoption documents and make matches.

For information about the registry, please contact Richard J. Oborn, MPA, State Registrar and Director of the Office of Vital Records and Statistics, at roborn@utah.gov or 801-538-6262.