

What is a veto?



Information for adopted adults

If you are an adopted adult and you wish to limit or prevent contact with your birth family, you can register a veto. This has been made possible under Section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

How do I register a veto?

To register a veto, you must make a written request to the agency which placed you for adoption. Before accepting your request, the agency will wish to see you in person to make sure you fully understand the implications of taking this step.

There are two types of veto:

1. An **absolute veto** – if it is your wish that no contact is made with you by your birth family, either directly, or through an intermediary agency
2. A **qualified veto** – if it is your wish that there is no contact from a specific member(s) of your birth family, either directly or through an intermediary agency. A qualified veto allows contact from other members of your birth family and/or contact to be made in certain circumstances, such as for medical records.

A veto is legally binding and remains in force until you wish to withdraw or amend it. Once in place, you will only be contacted by an adoption agency under exceptional circumstances, such as if information to do with your medical welfare needs to be passed on. As an adopted adult, you can also register 'no contact' with the GRO Adoption Contact Register or the NORCAP Contact Register. Unlike a veto, a 'no contact' request is not legally binding but would be taken into account by an agency acting for you.

Can a birth relative register a veto?

A birth relative cannot register a veto. They can place a 'no contact' request on either the GRO Adoption Contact Register or the NORCAP Contact Register. This is not legally binding but would be taken into account by any agency acting on their behalf.

Contact details:

GRO

Adoptions Section, General Register Office, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 2HH. Phone: 0151 471 4830.

E-mail: adoptions@ons.gov.uk. Website: www.gro.gov.uk

AAA NORCAP Adults Affected by Adoption

112 Church Road, Wheatley, Oxfordshire, OX33 1LU Phone: 01865 875000

Email: enquiries@norcap.org Website: www.norcap.org.uk

Contact us :

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