Access to Birth and Early Life Information is changing

BIRTH INFORMATION &TRACING

birthinfo.ie

An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais agus Comhionannais
Department of Children, Disability and Equality

Údarás Uchtála na hÉireann
Adoption Authority of Ireland

TUSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

The Birth Information and Tracing Act is here.

It confirms the right of a person to know their origins. People who were adopted, boarded out, the subject of an illegal birth registration or born in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution, have clear and guaranteed access to information and records about their birth and early life.

Since October 2022, people can apply under the Act for their information. A dedicated website—**birthinfo.ie**—has been set up to advise and assist those applying for birth information.

Under the Act, a **Contact Preference Register** has been established and this is now open for applications. **The register enables adopted persons, parents or other genetic relatives to register their preference in relation to contact with each other.** Importantly, it allows parents to register a 'no contact' preference prior to their information being released as part of a person's birth and early life information. This ensures that the parent's right to privacy and wish for privacy will be communicated when releasing their information. It is important to be aware that information will always be released, even where a 'no contact' preference has been registered.

If you are eligible to register a preference, it's important to do so.

A **Tracing Service** has also been created for people actively seeking a reunion, wishing to make contact, or looking to share or seek information. The Tracing Service can facilitate the sharing of information while maintaining a level of contact (if any) that both parties are comfortable with. Reunion or contact through the Tracing Service will be based on the consent of both parties.

More information on the new rights and services under the Act, such as how to apply for identity information, registering your contact preference or how to use the Tracing Service, can be found at **birthinfo.ie**

Who can apply to access information?

Any **relevant person** can apply. This means any person who is 16 years or over and was:

- adopted
- the subject of an illegal birth registration or think they were
- nursed out or boarded out or think they were
- resident as a child in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution

In addition, in certain circumstances where the relevant person has died, a next of kin can apply for birth and early life information relating to the relevant person. See **birthinfo.ie** for more detail.

How do you apply?

A dedicated website—**birthinfo.ie**—has been set up with directions on how to go about applying for birth and early life information and records.

Support and assistance, is available through the Adoption Authority of Ireland and the Child and Family Agency, Tusla. Counselling is available through the Child and Family Agency, Tusla, the HSE National Counselling Service as well as overseas counselling support. Contact details are provided at the end of this booklet.

What information can be accessed?

This legislation ensures that people have the right to their birth and early life information where it exists on a file, record or database. For some, there may be a lot of detailed records. Unfortunately, for others there may be little or no information available. This legislation guarantees you will get all of the following information, where available:

Birth Information relating to the person at the time of their birth, such as their name, birthplace and date, as well as their parents' names, dates of birth and other details.

Care Information where the person was under care of the State, or in care arranged by the State, such as who arranged it, where and when it took place.

Early Life Information relating to a relevant person's life before they reached the age of 18. For example, duration and location of care, information about their health, physical or emotional development, any religious events such as baptisms, or details around adoption arrangements.

Medical Information such as an applicant's own medical history and important genetic family medical history where it exists on files. An applicant's own medical information will be released directly to them, and the medical information of a genetic relative is released in a non-identifying way and with appropriate safeguards.

Illegal Birth Registration Information such as information about the circumstances under which a birth was illegally or incorrectly registered.

Provided Item may be any item held by the Adoption Authority or Tusla for the purpose of being made available on request, for instance a letter, photograph or other document.

Unfortunately, in some cases the information applied for may not exist or be recorded. But all material that does exist will be made available, along with a copy of the underlying records.
For further details on the type of information that can be accessed, visit **birthinfo.ie**



What is the Contact Preference Register?

The **Contact Preference Register** is a way for people to register their preference in relation to contact with an adopted person or genetic relative, as well as allowing them lodge personal communications or contemporary information, including medical details.

The following persons, where they have attained the age of 18 years, may apply to have an entry made in the register:

a) a person who is a relevant person, as outlined above;
b) a parent or relative of a relevant person;
c) a person who was a relevant guardian or provided care to a relevant person;
d) the adoptive parent of an adopted child, whether the child is living or deceased;
e) the adoptive parent of an adopted person, where the adopted person is deceased;
f) a person who was a friend of a deceased parent and who may be able to provide a relevant person with information on their origins.

We will help you to make contact where this is what both parties want. The Adoption Authority of Ireland maintains this Register.

More information on who is eligible to register a contact preference and how to do so is available at **birthinfo.ie**

What is the Tracing Service?

The legislation provides for a statutory **Tracing Service**. This enables people to actively trace family members for consensual contact or sharing of information, including for instance, vital medical information.

Persons adopted, boarded out or with an illegal birth registration, their parents and their genetic relatives can apply for the service. More details on who is eligible to apply for a tracing service is available at **birthinfo.ie**

Information on the Contact Preference Register may be used as part of a Tracing Service search. But it's important to note that the two are separate and distinct services and need to be applied to separately.

The Tracing Service opened for applications in October, 2022.

The Child and Family Agency, Tusla, has responsibility for managing applications to the Tracing Service.



IMPORTANT: This booklet is only a summary

This booklet outlines the key changes and services brought about by the Birth Information and Tracing Act. To learn more and engage with the process in any way, please visit **birthinfo.ie** or call the phone numbers listed below.

For further support or assistance, please contact:

Adoption Authority of Ireland
+353 1 230 9300 | www.aai.gov.ie | records@aai.gov.ie

TUSLA
+353 818 44 55 00 | www.tusla.ie | BITCounselling@tusla.ie

NCS National Counselling Service / HSE
www2.hse.ie/mental-health/services-support/ncs/ | BITCounselling@barnardos.ie

Information on Overseas Support
www.gov.ie/MBHCounselling

birthinfo.ie

This is an initiative of the Government of Ireland. Change to Department of Children, Disability and Equality has lead responsibility for the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022.

Tá Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis faoi Bhreitheanna agus an Luathshaol ag Athrú.....

FAISNÉIS BHREITHE &RIANÚ

birthinfo.ie

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Tá an tAcht um Fhaisnéis Bhreithe agus Rianú anseo anois.

Deimhnítear san Acht an ceart atá ag duine eolas a bheith acu ar a mbunús. Beidh rochtain shoiléir ráthaithe ar fhaisnéis agus ar thaifid faoina mbreith agus faoina luathshaol ag daoine a uchtaíodh, a cuireadh chun cónaí i lóistín, atá mar ábhar do chlárú breithe neamhdhleathach nó a rugadh in Áras Máithreacha agus Naíonán nó in Institiúid Chónaithe Contae.

Ó mhí Dheireadh Fómhair, beidh daoine in ann iarratas a dhéanamh faoin Acht ar a gcuid faisnéise. Tá suíomh Gréasáin tiomnaithe – **birthinfo.ie** – bunaithe chun comhairle agus cúnamh a thabhairt dóibh siúd a dhéanann iarratas ar fhaisnéis bhreithe.

Faoin Acht, tá Clár Rogha Teagmhála bunaithe agus tá sé seo oscailte anois d'iarratais. **Cuirfidh an clár ar chumas daoine uchtaithe, tuismitheoirí nó gaolta géiniteacha eile a rogha a chlárú maidir le teagmháil a dhéanamh lena chéile.** Thar aon ní eile, ceadóidh sé do thuismitheoirí rogha a chlárú nach ndéanfar teagmháil leo sula scaoilfear a gcuid faisnéise mar chuid d'eolas breithe agus luathsaoil duine. Cinntíonn sé seo go ndéanfar ceart an tuismitheora chun príobháideachta agus an chaoi gur mian leo príobháideacht a bheith ann a chur in iúl nuair a bhíonn a gcuid faisnéise á scaoileadh. Tá sé tábhachtach a bheith ar an eolas go scaoilfear faisnéis i gcónaí, fiú nuair a cláraíodh an rogha 'gan teagmháil a dhéanamh'.

Má tá tú incháilithe chun rogha a chlárú, tá sé tábhachtach é sin a dhéanamh sula n-osclófar an tSeirbhís Faisnéise d'iarratais i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2022. Is féidir roghanna teagmhála a chlárú tar éis an dáta sin go fóill. Nuair a fhaightear iarratas ar fhaisnéis, áfach, ní féidir ach roghanna a thaifeadtar ar an gclár ag an tráth sin a scaoileadh leis an bhfaisnéis ghaolmhar.

Tá **Seirbhís Rianaithe** á cruthú freisin do dhaoine atá ag lorg teacht le chéile go gníomhach, ar mian leo teagmháil a dhéanamh, nó atá ag iarraidh eolas a roinnt nó a lorg. Is féidir leis an tSeirbhís Rianaithe roinnt faisnéise a éascú agus leanúint de leibhéal teagmhála a bheith á dhéanamh (más ann dó) a bhfuil an dá pháirtí compordach leis. Beidh athaontú nó teagmháil tríd an tSeirbhís Rianaithe bunaithe ar thoiliú an dá pháirtí.

Tá tuilleadh faisnéise ar na cearta agus na seirbhísí nua faoin Acht, mar shampla, conas iarratas a dhéanamh ar fhaisnéis aitheantais, do rogha teagmhála a chlárú nó conas an tSeirbhís Rianaithe a úsáid, le fáil ag **birthinfo.ie**.

Cé ar féidir leis cur isteach ar fhaisnéis a rochtain?

Is féidir le haon **duine iomchuí** iarratas a dhéanamh. Ciallaíonn sé seo aon duine atá 16 bliana d'aois nó níos sine agus a bhí:

- uchtaithe
- mar ábhar clárúchán breithe neamhdhleathach, nó
- a cheapann gur cuireadh faoi chúram altranais nó chun cónaí i lóistín iad, nó
- a cheapann go raibh cónaí orthu nuair a bhí siad ina leanbh in Áras Máithreacha agus Naíonán nó in Institiúid Chónaithe Contae

Ina theannta sin, i gcúinsí áirithe ina bhfuil an duine iomchuí tar éis bháis, is féidir le neasghaol iarratas a dhéanamh ar fhaisnéis bhreithe agus luathshaoil a bhaineann leis an duine iomchuí. Féach **birthinfo.ie** le haghaidh tuilleadh sonraí.

Conas a dhéanann tú iarratas?

Tá suíomh Gréasáin tiomnaithe – **birthinfo.ie** – bunaithe chun treoracha a thabhairt faoi conas a dhéantar iarratas ar fhaisnéis agus taifid bhreithe agus luathshaoil.

Tá tacaíocht agus cúnamh ar fáil trí Údarás Uchtála na hÉireann agus an Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, Tusla. Tá comhairleoireacht ar fáil tríd an nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, Tusla, Seirbhís Náisiúnta Comhairleoireachta FSS chomh maith le tacaíocht chomhairleoireachta thar lear. Tá sonraí teagmhála ar fáil ag deireadh an leabhráin seo.

Cén fhaisnéis is féidir a rochtain?

Cinntíonn an reachtaíocht seo go bhfuil an ceart ag daoine faisnéis a fháil faoina mbreith agus faoina luathshaol nuair atá sé i gcomhad, i dtaifead nó i mbunachar sonraí. I gcás roinnt daoine, d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh go leor taifid mhionsonraithe ann. Ar an drochuair, d'fhéadfadh gur beag faisnéis atá ar fáil nó d'fhéadfadh nach mbeadh aon fhaisnéis ar fáil do dhaoine eile. Cinntíonn an reachtaíocht seo go bhfaighidh tú an fhaisnéis seo a leanas go léir, nuair atá sí ar fáil:

Faisnéis Bhreithe a bhaineann leis an duine tráth a mbreithe, cosúil lena n-ainm, áit agus dáta breithe, chomh maith le hainmneacha agus dátaí breithe a dtuismitheoirí agus sonraí eile fúthu.

Faisnéis Chúraim i gcás go raibh an duine faoi chúram an Stáit, nó faoi chúram arna shocrú ag an Stát, mar shampla, cé a d'eagraigh é, cá háit agus cathain a tharla sé.

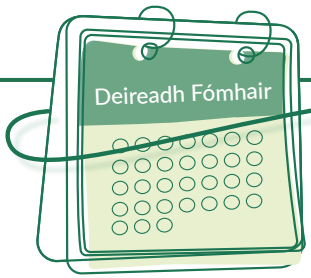
Faisnéis Luathshaoil a bhaineann le saol duine iomchuí sular bhain siad 18 mbliana d'aois amach. Mar shampla, fad agus láthair an chúraim, faisnéis faoina sláinte, forbairt fhisiciúil nó mhothúchánach, aon imeachtaí reiligiúnacha, cosúil le baistí, nó sonraí maidir le socruithe uchtála.

Faisnéis Leighis ar nós stair leighis féin an iarratasóra agus stair leighis thábhachtach ghéiniteach teaghlaigh, nuair atá sé i gcomhaid. Déanfar faisnéis leighis an iarratasóra féin a scaoileadh go díreach leo, agus scaoilfear faisnéis leighis faoi ghaol géiniteach ar bhealach nach sainaithníonn iad agus cuirfear na cosaintí iomchuí ar fáil.

Clárú Breithe Neamhdhleathach amhail faisnéis faoi na cúinsí faoinar cláraíodh breith go neamhdhleathach nó go mícheart.

An tEarra a Sholáthraítear, d'fhéadfadh aon earra atá á choimeád ag an Údarás Uchtála nó ag Tusla ar mhaithe lena chur ar fáil ar iarraidh, a bheith i gceist leis an earra, cosúil le litir, grianghraf nó cáipéis eile.

Ar an drochuair, i gcásanna áirithe, b'fhéidir nach ann don fhaisnéis a iarrtar nó nach bhfuil sí i dtaifead. Ach cuirfear gach ábhar atá ann ar fáil, mar aon le cóip de na buntaifid. Chun tuilleadh sonraí a fháil faoin gcineál faisnéise is féidir a rochtain, tabhair cuairt ar **birthinfo.ie**.



Cad é an Clár Rogha Teagmhála?

Is bealach é **an Clár Rogha Teagmhála** lena chur ar chumas daoine a rogha a chlárú maidir le teagmháil a dhéanamh le duine uchtaithe nó gaol géiniteach, chomh maith le ligean dóibh cumarsáid phearsanta nó faisnéis chomhaimseartha a thaisceadh, lena n-áirítear sonraí leighis.

Féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas, i gcás ina bhfuil 18 mbliana d'aois slánaithe acu, iarratas a dhéanamh go ndéanfar iontráil sa chlár dóibh:

a) duine is duine iomchuí, mar a leagtar amach thuas;
b) tuismitheoir nó gaol le duine iomchuí;
c) duine a bhí ina c(h)aomhnóir iomchuí nó a sholáthair cúram do dhuine iomchuí;
d) tuismitheoir uchtála linbh uchtaithe, cibé acu má tá an leanbh beo nó marbh;
e) tuismitheoir uchtála duine uchtaithe, i gcás ina bhfuil an duine uchtaithe éagtha;
f) duine a bhí ina c(h)ara le tuismitheoir éagtha agus a fhéadfaidh a bheith in ann faisnéis faoina b(h)unús a sholáthar do dhuine iomchuí.

Cabhróimid leat teagmháil a dhéanamh nuair a theastaíonn seo ón dá pháirtí. Coimeádfaidh Údarás Uchtála na hÉireann an Clár seo.

Tá tuilleadh faisnéise maidir le cé atá i dteideal rogha teagmhála a chlárú agus conas é sin a dhéanamh ar fáil ag **birthinfo.ie**.

Cad é an tSeirbhís Rianaithe?

Foráiltear sa reachtaíocht do **Sheirbhís Rianaithe** reachtúil. Cuirfidh sé seo ar chumas daoine daoine muinteartha a rianú go gníomhach chun teagmháil chomhthoiliúil a dhéanamh leo nó faisnéis a roinnt, lena n-áirítear, mar shampla, faisnéis ríthábhachtach leighis.

Is féidir le daoine uchtaithe, daoine a cuireadh chun cónaí i lóistín nó a bhfuil clárúchán neamhdhleathach breithe acu, a dtuismitheoirí agus a ngaolta géiniteacha iarratas a dhéanamh ar an tseirbhís. Tá tuilleadh sonraí maidir le cé atá i dteideal iarratas a dhéanamh ar sheirbhís rianaithe ar fáil ag **birthinfo.ie**.

Is féidir faisnéis ar an gClár Rogha Teagmhála a úsáid mar chuid de chuardach Seirbhíse Rianaithe. Ach tá sé tábhachtach a thabhairt faoi deara gur seirbhísí ar leith iad an dá sheirbhís agus gur gá iad a chur i bhfeidhm ar leithligh.

Osclófar an tSeirbhís Rianaithe d'iarratais i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2022.

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, Tusla, freagrach as iarratais a dhéantar leis an tSeirbhís Rianaithe a bhainistiú.



TÁBHACHTACH: Níl sa leabhrán seo ach achoimre

Tugtar cuntas sa leabhrán seo ar na príomhathruithe agus seirbhísí a tháinig chun cinn mar gheall ar an Acht um Fhaisnéis Bhreithe agus Rianú. Chun tuilleadh a fhoghlaim agus páirt a ghlacadh sa phróiseas ar aon bhealach, tabhair cuairt, le do thoil, ar **birthinfo.ie** nó cuir glaoch ar na huimhreacha gutháin atá liostaithe thíos.

Le tacaíocht nó cúnamh breise a fháil, déan teagmháil, le do thoil, le:

Údarás Uchtála na hÉireann
+353 1 230 9300 | www.aai.gov.ie | records@aai.gov.ie

TUSLA
+353 818 44 55 00 | www.tusla.ie | BITCounselling@tusla.ie

An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Comhairleoireachta / FSS
www2.hse.ie/mental-health/services-support/ncs/

Eolas ar Thacaíocht Thar Lear
www.gov.ie/MBHCounselling

birthinfo.ie

Tionscnamh de chuid Rialtas na hÉireann é seo. Tá príomhfhreagracht ar an Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais agus Comhionannais as an Acht um Fhaisnéis Bhreithe agus Rianú, 2022.