

Confidential Intermediary Service Agreement for Minor in Out-of-Home Placement

The Confidential Intermediary (CI) agrees to undertake search, contact, and reunion services ("Services") in accordance with Family Law Article, §§ 5-4B-01, *et seq.*, of the Maryland Annotated Code and COMAR 07.02.13.01, *et seq.*, and applicable Department of Human Services (DHS) policy.

Directors of Local Departments of Social Services (DSS) or their designees may register for Services to seek and develop a potential placement resource or facilitate a family connection with an adopted sibling of the minor in out-of-home placement who is over the age of 21 or relatives of the minor in out-of-home placement. Relatives include individuals who are over the age of 21 and who are related to the minor by blood or by marriage within five degrees of consanguinity or affinity under the civil law rule.

This Agreement is not a guarantee that the CI will locate or make contact with the minor's relatives or adopted adult sibling. While a CI may locate a relative, that relative may refuse contact, decline to serve as a placement resource or family connection, may be deceased, or be unfit to be a placement resource or family connection.

If, after performing the search to the best of the CI's ability with the resources currently available, the CI is unable to make progress in either locating or contacting relatives who could serve as potential placement resources or family connections for the minor in out-of-home placement, the CI will notify the Local DSS Director or the Director's designee of such. And, if after such notification, no additional information is found and no contact is made with a relative within 90 days, the search will be considered completed and the Local DSS Director or the Director's designee will be notified. The CI will forward to the Department of Human Services (DHS) all information discovered in the course of the search.

The CI will provide a report regarding the progress of the search to the Local DSS Director or the Director's designee 90 days after the commencement of the search and every 90 days thereafter until the search is completed. Likewise, the CI will provide a report regarding the progress of the search to DHS 90 days after the commencement of the search and every 90 days thereafter until the search is completed.

The State of Maryland provides CI Services without charge to Directors of Local DSS and their designees who are seeking to develop a placement resource or to facilitate a family connection with adopted adult siblings and relatives of minors in out-of-home placement.

I _____, am entering into an agreement with
(Name of Director/Designee of LDSS)

_____ to complete a search on behalf of
(Name of Confidential Intermediary)

_____, a minor in out-of-home care.
(Name of Minor)

I am requesting the following search services (check all that apply):

- Contact with birth relative or adult adopted sibling for the purpose of placement.
- Contact with birth relative or adult adopted sibling for the purpose of family connection.

Signature of Director/Director's Designee

Date

Signature of Confidential Intermediary

Date