

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**To survivors, former residents, their families and advocates,**

The Birth Information and Tracing Bill 2022 has been published and is available on the Oireachtas website here [here](#)

Explanatory material on the Bill can be found [here](#)

The Bill seeks to enshrine in law the importance of a person knowing his or her origins. It aims to remove the long-standing obstacles faced by adopted people and others in gaining access to their own birth and early life information.

For the first time, the Bill will guarantee the full and un-redacted release of all such information to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The main features of the Bill provide for:

- The release of full birth certificates, birth information, early life information, care information and medical information for all persons who were adopted, boarded out, the subject of an illegal birth registration or who otherwise have questions in relation to their origins;
- A statutory tracing service for persons wishing to make contact, share or seek information;
- A Contact Preference Register, established in law, through which people can register their preference in relation to contact with a child, or genetic relative, as well as lodge personal communications or updated medical information; and
- The safeguarding of relevant records.

The Bill also amends the Civil Registration Act 2004 to address key issues arising for people affected by illegal birth registration by:

- Providing the relevant individual with an entitlement to live under whichever identity they prefer (i.e. their birth identity *or* the lifelong identity by which they have lived) and to have their social parents recognised in law through the mechanism of a parallel register; and
- Providing a robust legal basis for the transfer of information to the GRO, thereby vindicating the right of relevant individuals to an accurate birth registration.

It is intended that the Bill will also contain further measures to address issues arising for people affected by illegal birth registration, particularly succession issues.

Now that the Bill is published, the first stage (introduction to the Dáil) is complete and I intend to commence Second Stage in the Dáil next week.

The steps involved in bringing the legislation through each House of the Oireachtas are set out [here](#)

I look forward to engaging with all TDs and Senators as the Bill makes its way through the Houses. I would greatly welcome your own input too as the Bill progresses, and I will keep you updated on progress through the Houses in the period ahead.

Best wishes,

Roderic O’Gorman T.D.

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth