

A Message from Minister Roderic O'Gorman Friday 01/07/2022 10:13

To survivors, former relatives, their families and advocates,

I am pleased to announce that, yesterday (30 June), the President signed the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 into law. I immediately commenced the legislative provisions to establish the new Contact Preference Register from today (1 July). This paves the way for Information and Tracing Services to open in October 2022.

The new Register is now open to applications and can be accessed on birthinfo.ie. Applications may be made to the Contact Preference Register by those wishing to make contact, to request privacy, or to seek or share information with a relative.

A Public Information Campaign, with a national and international focus, starts today to let people know of the important changes to the law. As part of this, an Information Booklet will be delivered to every household in Ireland, as well as being distributed overseas, over the summer period.

The Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 provides a full and clear right of access to birth certificates, birth and early life 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. The new law establishes a robust tracing service and a Contact Preference Register, as well as a range of new bespoke measures to address issues arising for people affected by illegal birth registration. A broad spectrum of counselling and support is also available to persons affected on request. All of these services will be free of charge for applicants.

More information can be found in the press release, available [here](#) or on the new bespoke website, www.birthinfo.ie.

This legislation has been an absolute priority for me. I have spoken to so many people who have told me about the impact the lack of access to that fundamental information about their own identity has had on them. I sincerely hope that this historic law finally provides the answers that so many people have sought for so long.

With kind regards and best wishes,
Roderic O'Gorman, T.D.,
Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.