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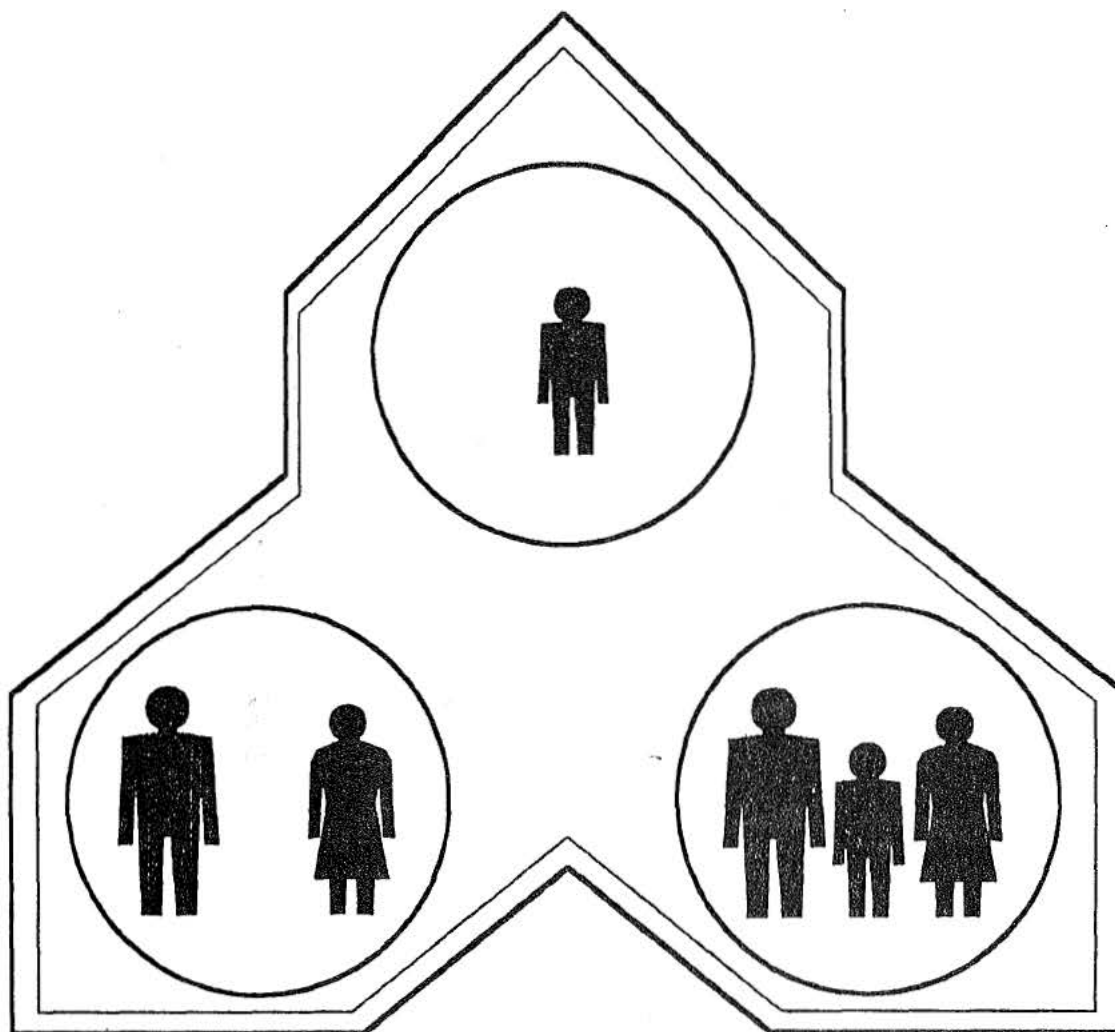
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SURVEY REPORT



ADOPTION TASK FORCE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 1989

John R. McKernan Jr.
Governor



Rollin Ives
Commissioner

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ADOPTION TASK FORCE
SURVEY REPORT

Conducted by the
Adoption Task Force
with
Data Compilation and Analysis
by the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics

Produced under Appropriation Number 1305.1065

March 30, 1989

John R. McKernan, Jr., Governor

Rollin Ives, Commissioner

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INTRODUCTION

The Adoption Task Force was established by Rollin Ives, Commissioner, Maine Department of Human Services and charged on March 17, 1988, to:

1. Identify current trends in and issues regarding adoption;
2. Determine where Maine wants to be in regards to adoption;
3. Identify current and needed resources for adoption support;
4. Revise or recodify Maine's adoption laws;
5. Make recommendations for administrative policy and rules changes; and
6. Report back to Commissioner Ives in one year.

The Adoption Task Force considered it important to obtain as broad public input as possible. To that end, and in addition to four public hearings held during September, 1988, in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta and Portland, the Task Force conducted a series of surveys using questionnaires.

THE ADOPTION TASK FORCE QUESTIONNAIRES

PURPOSE

The Adoption Task Force developed and conducted several surveys during its brief tenure. Crucial needs for new information were identified as the Task Force Committees began to consider the issues before them. Although much has been written about the various facets of the lifelong adoption process, the Task Force was unable to find any source that evaluated the experience of a broad spectrum of individuals. Past studies have focused on those with problems, those associated with a particular agency or organization, etc., but none describe the "silent majority" of those involved with adoption. Information about the concerns, desires, attitudes and needs of the general population of those affected by adoption was needed to help the Task Force achieve its purposes of identifying current issues regarding adoption in Maine and making recommendations for changes in laws, regulations and administrative policies.

The Support Services and Search Committees of the Adoption Task Force determined that information from Maine people would be a key factor in shaping recommendations for change. The Support Services Committee wanted to know what services were presently available and what unmet service needs adoption triad members have. The Search Committee wanted to know what opinions and needs people have regarding the exchange of information, search, and contact.

PROCESS

In order to yield the desired information in time for it to be used by Task Force members in their deliberations, four surveys were developed and conducted within an extremely compressed time frame: approximately three months from beginning to end. Inevitably, this resulted in some poorly constructed questions and the omission of some which should have been included. Too, no master list of persons involved with adoption exists from which a statistical sample could be chosen, while a poll of the general public, however selected, would be unlikely to include enough adoption triad members to provide useable data. Despite these drawbacks, we believe that the information collected through the four Task Force surveys is a unique resource which will continue to prove invaluable in dispelling some of the myths regarding the adoption process and in shaping new policies for the future.

Development: The Support Services Committee developed separate, but essentially parallel, questionnaires for each member of the adoption triad - adoptees, birth parents, and adoptive parents - to determine service availability and unmet needs (Appendix A). An Ad Hoc Committee developed an "opinion" or attitude questionnaire to accompany each of the triad questionnaires, in order to obtain more general information concerning such issues as searching for birth parents and surrendered children, characteristics of adopting families, independent or non-agency adoptions, adoption versus abortion, and rights of each triad member (Appendix B).

Distribution: The questionnaires were distributed as widely as possible to reach all who have had some experience with or interest in adoption in Maine, particularly those who are members of the adoption triad.

- . Licensed private adoption agencies distributed to their clients;
- . Department of Human Services regional adoption units distributed to their clients;
- . Adoptive Families of Maine member list was used;
- . Adoption Search Consultants of Maine newsletter list was used;
- . Copies were distributed at the four public hearings;
- . Newspaper articles and editorials solicited respondents;
- . Task Force members distributed questionnaires to interested individuals.

Each person who responded was asked to complete a questionnaire appropriate to his or her position in the adoption triad as well as the general opinion questionnaire.

Response: Six hundred Adoptee Questionnaires, 400 Birthparent Questionnaires, and 900 Adoptive Parent Questionnaires were distributed, together with 1,900 opinion questionnaires.

Response rates were average for a survey of this type, in which no follow-up of unreturned questionnaires was possible. Not all triad questionnaires were returned with an opinion form, and some opinion questionnaires were completed by non-triad members.

<u>Survey Type</u>	<u>Number Distributed</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>	<u>Response Rate (%)</u>
Adoptee	600	160	27%
Birthparent	400	98	24%
Adoptive Parent	900	232	26%
Opinion	1,900	533	28%

ANALYSIS:

The analysis of the data was done by the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, within the Department of Human Services. Analysis was limited to frequency counts of survey responses, due to constraints of time and resources. The data thus provided were used by each Task Force Committee as they developed their recommendations for new policies, statutes, rules and procedures. Further analyses directed to specific issues of concern remain to be done.

LIMITATIONS:

There are several limitations which must be kept in mind when using the data derived from the Adoption Task Force surveys. The primary consideration is the nature of the sample itself. The respondents were self-selected from a larger group comprised of persons who obtained or received a questionnaire through one of the distribution methods outlined above. The time factor did not permit waiting for respondents who missed the survey return deadline (60 questionnaires came in so long after the deadline that they could not be included in the tabulations.) Due to the distribution method, no follow-up was possible to remind participants to return their responses. Thus, respondents were people who received a questionnaire due to known involvement in the adoption triad or who requested a survey form following an announcement in a newspaper, newsletter or at a public hearing held by the Task Force. Respondents were interested enough to return the questionnaires on their own, without reminders of any kind.

The sample is not a probability sample and statistical techniques such as significance testing or calculation of confidence intervals are meaningless. Yet, taken on their own and for what they are, the responses to these questionnaires are an invaluable source of information on the needs and attitudes of adoption triad members who are concerned about these issues.

A secondary consideration is the quality of the data. With such a very short time frame in which to develop and distribute the questionnaires, then process and analyze the returned survey forms, very little pre-testing could be done. As a result, some questions are ambiguous or too easily subject to misinterpretation. Some information which should have been requested was not. Potential problems of this nature must be appropriately controlled for in analyzing and interpreting the data.

IMPLICATIONS

Despite the limitations noted above, the findings of this study have important and far-reaching implications for Maine's adoption law, policy, and practice. The Adoption Task Force could not find any other studies that surveyed a large number of triad members at the same time using a uniform opinion questionnaire for all and parallel questionnaires for each triad member. Comparisons of the responses of the various categories of triad members to certain questions revealed unanimity on issues long considered to be areas of acute conflict and difference. Conversely, emotions or concerns that conventional wisdom has held to be shortlived are shown to be frequently longstanding and painful.

The opportunity afforded by the Task Force Surveys to glimpse the needs and feelings of each of the triad members is rare indeed and carries great potential for better understanding and supporting them more effectively.

RESULTS

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

A. Respondent type: (Percents sum to more than 100% due to multiple responses.)		All Responses							
All Responses		533	100%						
Adoptee (Q1)		164	31%						
Adoptive parent (Q2)		248	46%						
Birth parent (Q3)		130	24%						
Adoption agency person (Q4)		11	2%						
Other (Q5)		48	9%						
		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
B. Age of Respondent (Q6):	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Under 20	15	3%	7	4%	7	5%	0	0%
	Age 20-24	27	5%	17	10%	10	8%	2	1%
	Age 25-34	147	28%	64	39%	29	22%	56	23%
	Age 35-44	245	46%	51	31%	55	42%	144	58%
	Age 45-54	70	13%	15	9%	22	17%	36	15%
	Age 55-64	18	3%	7	4%	6	5%	6	2%
	Age 65+	5	1%	2	1%	0	0%	3	1%
	Missing/Unknown	6	1%	1	1%	1	1%	1	*
C. Sex of Respondent (Q7):	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Male	92	17%	38	23%	12	9%	46	19%
	Female	435	82%	125	76%	117	90%	201	81%
	Missing/Unknown	6	1%	1	1%	1	1%	1	*
D. Current Marital Status (Q8):	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Married couple	392	74%	104	63%	82	63%	223	90%
	Unmarried couple	10	2%	5	3%	5	4%	1	*
	Divorced	42	8%	12	7%	23	18%	7	3%
	Separated	4	1%	2	1%	1	1%	1	*
	Single	68	13%	35	21%	17	13%	13	5%
	Other/Unknown	17	3%	6	4%	2	2%	3	1%
E. Respondent Education (Q9):	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Less than High School Graduate	29	5%	11	7%	15	12%	4	2%
	High School Graduate	145	27%	57	35%	43	33%	46	19%
	Education Beyond High School	351	66%	93	57%	71	55%	194	78%
	Missing/Unknown	8	2%	3	2%	1	1%	4	1%

* Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION (Continued)

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
F. Place of Residence (Q10):	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Urban	98	18%	36	22%	30	23%	35	14%
	Suburban	166	31%	53	32%	42	32%	74	30%
	Rural	242	45%	68	41%	51	39%	129	52%
	Missing/Unknown	27	5%	7	4%	7	5%	10	4%
G. Current Occupation (Q11):	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Managerial/Professional (003-199)	216	40%	55	34%	36	28%	123	50%
	Technical/Sales/Administrative (203-389)	92	17%	33	20%	27	21%	35	14%
	Service (403-469)	31	6%	16	10%	7	5%	9	4%
	Farming/Forestry/Fishing (473-499)	9	2%	3	2%	2	2%	4	2%
	Precision Production/Craft/Repair (503-699)	20	4%	10	6%	5	4%	6	2%
	Operators/Fabricators/Laborers (703-889)	21	4%	8	5%	9	7%	4	2%
	Military (905)	1	*	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
	Retired (913)	4	1%	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%
	Homemaker/Housewife/Mother (914)	91	17%	19	12%	23	18%	58	23%
	Student (915)	21	4%	7	4%	11	8%	3	1%
	Never Worked (917)	12	2%	5	3%	6	5%	1	*
	Missing/Unknown	15	3%	6	4%	3	2%	3	1%
H. Involvement in the adoption process:	Percents sum to more than 100% due to multiple responses.								
	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Surrender/consent for adoption of a child	106	20%	10	6%	85	65%	19	8%
	Being adopted yourself (Q14-Q15)	129	24%	114	70%	9	7%	23	9%
	Adopting a child (Q16-Q17)	249	47%	25	15%	36	28%	219	88%
	Searching/found (Q18-Q19)	131	25%	69	42%	40	31%	33	13%
	Working toward adoption reform	45	8%	14	9%	14	11%	14	6%
	Working for an adoption agency	23	4%	2	1%	5	4%	14	6%
	Receiving counseling related to adoption issues (Q24-Q25)	80	15%	27	16%	28	22%	32	13%
	Providing support to someone involved with adoption issues	72	14%	21	13%	18	14%	28	11%
	Other involvement (Q28-Q29)	26	5%	7	4%	5	4%	10	4%

* Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION (Continued)

1. Did you search or were you found? (Percents sum to more than 100%)	All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
1. Searched and found (Q30)	126	24%	57	35%	31	24%	49	20%
If yes, was it a good experience?	102	81%	47	82%	25	81%	40	82%
2. Was found (Q32)	36	7%	20	12%	11	8%	10	4%
If yes, was it a good experience?	21	58%	9	45%	9	82%	7	70%
3. Searching, have not found (Q34)	104	20%	60	37%	37	28%	8	3%
4. Am not searching and do not plan to	21	4%	9	5%	4	3%	12	5%
5. Am not searching but may in the future	51	10%	28	17%	17	13%	13	5%
6. Am not searching but willing to be found	43	8%	28	17%	14	11%	9	4%
7. Do not want to search (Q38)	12	2%	8	5%	1	1%	4	2%
8. Do not want to be found (Q39)	12	2%	9	5%	0	0%	4	2%

II. OPINIONS (In this section, No Opinion includes item nonresponse.)

1. Who should be allowed to adopt? (Percents sum to more than 100%)			All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
	All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
A married couple (Q40)	Yes		516	97%	162	99%	122	94%	243	98%
	No		1	*	0	0%	0	0%	1	*
	No Opinion		16	3%	2	1%	8	6%	4	2%
A single woman (Q41)	Yes		394	74%	119	73%	86	66%	197	79%
	No		62	12%	18	11%	18	14%	27	11%
	No Opinion		77	14%	27	16%	26	20%	24	10%
A single man (Q42)	Yes		367	69%	109	66%	77	59%	186	75%
	No		83	16%	28	17%	24	18%	36	15%
	No Opinion		83	16%	27	16%	29	22%	26	10%
An unmarried couple (Q43)	Yes		185	35%	63	38%	42	32%	85	34%
	No		223	42%	62	38%	50	38%	114	46%
	No Opinion		125	23%	39	24%	38	29%	49	20%
A gay/lesbian couple (Q44)	Yes		130	24%	39	24%	34	26%	69	28%
	No		265	50%	82	50%	58	45%	128	52%
	No Opinion		138	26%	43	26%	38	29%	51	21%
A gay/lesbian person (Q45)	Yes		131	25%	38	23%	35	27%	67	27%
	No		261	49%	83	51%	56	43%	125	50%
	No Opinion		141	26%	43	26%	39	30%	56	23%

* Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

II. OPINIONS (Continued)

1. Who should be allowed to adopt? (Continued):

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
People who already have children (Q46)	Yes	463	87%	143	87%	113	87%	220	89%
	No	23	4%	10	6%	2	2%	11	4%
	No Opinion	47	9%	11	7%	15	12%	17	7%
People who have given up a child for adoption (Q47)	Yes	354	66%	96	59%	93	72%	170	69%
	No	79	15%	41	25%	12	9%	30	12%
	No Opinion	100	19%	27	16%	25	19%	48	19%
People who have a history of mental illness (Q48)	Yes	50	9%	8	5%	11	8%	27	11%
	No	326	61%	118	72%	73	56%	146	59%
	No Opinion	157	29%	38	23%	46	35%	75	30%
Physically/medically handicapped person (Q49)	Yes	337	63%	90	55%	70	54%	183	74%
	No	69	13%	30	18%	16	12%	23	9%
	No Opinion	127	24%	44	27%	44	34%	42	17%
2. Should anyone be allowed to adopt:									
A child of a different race (Q50)	Yes	477	90%	144	88%	110	85%	230	93%
	No	27	5%	9	5%	9	7%	11	4%
	No Opinion	29	5%	11	7%	11	8%	7	3%
A child from a different country (Q51)	Yes	487	91%	149	91%	114	88%	231	93%
	No	19	4%	5	3%	7	5%	10	4%
	No Opinion	27	5%	10	6%	9	7%	7	3%
A child of a different religion (Q52)	Yes	480	90%	147	90%	110	85%	230	93%
	No	22	4%	6	4%	9	7%	10	4%
	No Opinion	31	6%	11	7%	11	8%	8	3%
An unlimited number of children (Q53)	Yes	274	51%	75	46%	66	51%	142	57%
	No	185	35%	64	39%	40	31%	80	32%
	No Opinion	74	14%	25	15%	24	18%	26	10%
A child from another state (Q54)	Yes	486	91%	147	90%	112	86%	234	94%
	No	19	4%	7	4%	8	6%	8	3%
	No Opinion	28	5%	10	6%	10	8%	6	2%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

II. OPINIONS (Continued)

3. Do you support the following?

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
Agency adoption (Q55)	Yes	466	87%	131	80%	103	79%	240	97%
	No	24	4%	12	7%	11	8%	1	*
	No Opinion	43	8%	21	13%	16	12%	7	3%
Independent or private adoption (Q56)	Yes	320	60%	85	52%	75	58%	167	67%
	No	119	22%	39	24%	30	23%	50	20%
	No Opinion	94	18%	40	24%	25	19%	31	13%
"Open adoption" (meet, know names) (Q57)	Yes	350	66%	116	71%	93	72%	146	59%
	No	105	20%	27	16%	19	15%	64	26%
	No Opinion	78	15%	21	13%	18	14%	38	15%
"Open records" (court records open) (Q58)	Yes	352	66%	136	83%	98	75%	124	50%
	No	108	20%	11	7%	17	13%	82	33%
	No Opinion	73	14%	17	10%	15	12%	42	17%

4. Should letters, pictures, etc. be exchanged?

All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
Directly (Q59)	Yes	229	43%	84	51%	68	52%	73	29%
	No	157	30%	39	24%	25	19%	96	39%
	No Opinion	147	28%	41	25%	37	28%	79	39%
Through intermediaries (Q60)	Yes	369	69%	108	66%	96	74%	176	72%
	No	52	10%	17	10%	10	8%	23	9%
	No Opinion	112	21%	39	24%	24	18%	47	19%
Not exchanged at all (Q61)	Yes	45	8%	10	6%	7	5%	27	11%
	No	259	49%	92	56%	68	52%	110	44%
	No Opinion	229	43%	62	38%	55	42%	111	45%

5. Should anyone search for an unknown party to the adoption? (Q62)

All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Yes	206	39%	77	47%	56	43%	77	31%
	No	127	24%	30	18%	34	26%	63	25%
	No Opinion	200	38%	57	35%	40	31%	108	44%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

II. OPINIONS (Continued)

6. Who should have the right to privacy in the adoption process?		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
Adoptees (Q63)	Yes	323	61%	80	49%	61	47%	192	77%
	No	87	16%	38	23%	33	25%	14	6%
	No Opinion	123	23%	46	28%	36	28%	42	17%
Birth parents (Q64)	Yes	314	59%	72	44%	68	52%	184	74%
	No	101	19%	47	29%	34	26%	19	8%
	No Opinion	118	22%	45	27%	28	22%	45	18%
Adoptive parents (Q65)	Yes	233	44%	49	30%	51	39%	143	58%
	No	108	20%	43	26%	35	27%	28	11%
	No Opinion	192	36%	72	44%	44	34%	77	31%
7. Should adopted children be told that they are adopted? (Q66)		All Responses		164		130		248	
Yes		505	95%	155	95%	124	95%	238	96%
No		2	*	2	1%	0	0%	0	0%
No Opinion		26	5%	7	4%	6	5%	10	4%
If yes, at what age should an adoptee have access to his records? (Q67)		All Responses		164		130		248	
At any age		182	36%	57	37%	51	41%	76	32%
At age 18		195	39%	58	37%	44	35%	95	40%
At age 21		77	15%	28	18%	16	13%	36	15%
Never		6	1%	0	0%	0	0%	5	2%
Don't know		33	6%	11	7%	10	8%	18	8%
Missing/Unknown		12	2%	1	1%	3	2%	8	3%
8. What information should the following be able to obtain about other parties in the adoption process?		All Responses		164		130		248	
None (Q68-Q70)	Adoptees	18	3%	7	4%	7	5%	7	3%
	Birth Parents	55	10%	19	12%	11	8%	30	12%
	Adoptive Parents	18	3%	8	5%	6	5%	6	2%
Medical/genetic information (Q71-Q73)	Adoptees	450	84%	145	88%	101	78%	214	86%
	Birth Parents	299	56%	95	58%	85	65%	123	50%
	Adoptive Parents	446	84%	136	83%	102	78%	219	88%

* Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

II. OPINIONS (Continued)

			All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
8. What information should the following be able to obtain about other parties in the adoption process?			All Responses	533 100%	164 100%	130 100%	248 100%			
Social history (Q74-Q76)	Adoptees		353 66%	122 74%	84 65%	156 63%				
	Birth Parents		289 54%	90 55%	83 64%	118 48%				
	Adoptive Parents		384 72%	115 70%	92 71%	190 77%				
Full disclosure of information including names and addresses (Q77-Q79)	Adoptees		263 49%	105 64%	78 60%	81 33%				
	Birth Parents		187 35%	74 45%	64 49%	45 18%				
	Adoptive Parents		230 43%	92 56%	67 52%	75 30%				
9. If a system was devised to provide information through a third party, without revealing identities, would you provide/accept			All Responses	533 100%	164 100%	130 100%	248 100%			
Up-to-date medical information (Q80)	Yes		487 91%	154 94%	121 93%	226 91%				
	No		21 4%	6 4%	1 1%	12 5%				
	No Opinion		25 5%	4 2%	8 6%	10 4%				
Pictures, letters, etc. (Q81)	Yes		410 77%	138 84%	113 87%	170 69%				
	No		70 13%	18 11%	5 4%	50 20%				
	No Opinion		53 10%	8 5%	12 9%	28 11%				
Social updates: births, marriages, etc. (Q82)	Yes		408 76%	131 80%	114 88%	171 69%				
	No		67 13%	20 12%	6 5%	45 18%				
	No Opinion		58 11%	13 8%	10 8%	32 13%				
Other (Q83)	Yes		61 11%	22 13%	24 18%	18 7%				
	No		15 3%	6 4%	0 0	10 4%				
	No Opinion		457 86%	136 83%	106 82%	220 89%				
10. If, despite everything, you were contacted by the other parties(s), would you:			All Responses	533 100%	164 100%	130 100%	248 100%			
Be angry or upset? (Q84)	Yes		92 17%	14 9%	12 9%	68 27%				
	No		214 40%	89 54%	64 49%	74 30%				
	No Opinion		227 43%	61 37%	54 42%	106 43%				
Be neutral? (Q85)	Yes		179 34%	60 37%	39 30%	98 40%				
	No		121 23%	44 27%	38 29%	44 18%				
	No Opinion		233 44%	60 37%	53 41%	106 43%				
Be happy and relieved? (Q86)	Yes		251 47%	110 67%	96 74%	51 21%				
	No		67 13%	10 6%	9 7%	54 22%				
	No Opinion		215 40%	44 27%	25 19%	143 58%				

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II. OPINIONS (Continued)

11. Which of the following describe your feelings about search/reunion:	All Responses	All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
Have reservations about it (Q87)		157	30%	43	26%	22	17%	100	40%
Discourage it (Q88)		21	4%	5	3%	1	1%	15	6%
Refuse to even consider it (Q89)		8	2%	3	2%	1	1%	4	2%
Don't want to even think about it		8	2%	2	1%	0	0%	5	2%
It depends what my child wants/needs		313	59%	36	22%	80	62%	217	88%
Generally positive (Q92)		372	70%	131	80%	110	85%	133	54%
Generally negative (Q93)		30	6%	6	4%	3	2%	23	9%

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

	All Responses	All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
1. There are good reasons for giving up a child for adoption. (Q94)	Strongly Agree	445	84%	119	73%	104	80%	233	94%
	Agree	44	8%	21	13%	12	9%	11	4%
	Unknown/No Opinion	29	5%	17	10%	7	5%	4	2%
	Disagree	6	1%	3	2%	2	2%	0	0%
	Strongly Disagree	9	2%	4	3%	5	4%	0	0%
2. I would recommend that a relative give up a child for adoption. (Q95)	Strongly Agree	186	35%	44	27%	31	24%	120	48%
	Agree	84	16%	20	12%	18	14%	47	19%
	No Opinion	156	29%	63	38%	30	23%	58	23%
	Disagree	29	5%	8	5%	15	12%	8	3%
	Strongly Disagree	78	15%	29	18%	36	28%	15	6%
3. I would consider giving up a child for adoption myself. (Q96)	Strongly Agree	91	17%	23	14%	41	32%	37	15%
	Agree	40	8%	16	10%	6	5%	14	6%
	No Opinion	113	21%	32	20%	20	15%	54	22%
	Disagree	24	4%	9	5%	1	1%	14	6%
	Strongly Disagree	265	50%	84	51%	62	48%	129	52%
4. Unmarried pregnant teens should be encouraged to give up a child for adoption. (Q97)	Strongly Agree	161	30%	43	26%	36	28%	99	40%
	Agree	97	18%	26	16%	14	11%	54	22%
	No Opinion	123	23%	48	29%	27	21%	51	21%
	Disagree	63	12%	15	9%	21	16%	23	9%
	Strongly Disagree	89	17%	32	20%	32	25%	21	8%

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II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
5. Abortion is a more desirable option than adoption. (Q98)	All Responses								
	Strongly Agree	27	5%	7	4%	15	12%	9	4%
	Agree	24	4%	9	5%	4	3%	12	5%
	No Opinion	96	18%	41	25%	21	16%	32	13%
	Disagree	55	10%	13	8%	12	9%	30	12%
	Strongly Disagree	331	62%	94	57%	78	60%	165	67%
6. There should be age limits on who can adopt children over 3 years old. (Q99)	Strongly Agree	44	8%	17	10%	12	9%	13	5%
	Agree	50	9%	20	12%	8	6%	24	10%
	No Opinion	151	28%	55	34%	40	31%	51	21%
	Disagree	91	17%	25	15%	19	15%	56	23%
	Strongly Disagree	197	37%	47	29%	51	39%	104	42%
7. Unmarried pregnant teens should be encouraged to keep their children. (Q100)	Strongly Agree	48	9%	19	12%	18	14%	11	4%
	Agree	50	9%	15	9%	15	12%	20	8%
	No Opinion	149	28%	56	34%	41	32%	54	22%
	Disagree	127	24%	32	20%	30	23%	64	26%
	Strongly Disagree	159	30%	42	26%	26	20%	99	40%
8. Unmarried persons considering either adoption, abortion or keeping their children should be presented with information about all the other options. (Q101)	Strongly Agree	450	84%	135	82%	111	85%	215	87%
	Agree	33	6%	11	7%	5	4%	15	6%
	No Opinion	39	7%	15	9%	12	9%	13	5%
	Disagree	3	1%	1	1%	1	1%	1	*
	Strongly Disagree	8	2%	2	1%	1	1%	4	2%
9. An unmarried adult pregnant woman should be encouraged to give up a child for adoption.	Strongly Agree	32	6%	6	4%	7	5%	18	7%
	Agree	42	8%	10	6%	10	8%	29	12%
	No Opinion	173	32%	51	31%	39	30%	88	35%
	Disagree	101	19%	31	19%	14	11%	50	20%
	Strongly Disagree	185	35%	66	40%	60	46%	63	25%
10. Unmarried pregnant teenagers should be required to give up their children for adoption. (Q103)	Strongly Agree	14	3%	5	3%	4	3%	4	2%
	Agree	17	3%	8	5%	1	1%	7	3%
	No Opinion	70	13%	26	16%	19	15%	28	11%
	Disagree	64	12%	20	12%	11	8%	33	13%
	Strongly Disagree	368	69%	105	64%	95	73%	176	71%

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II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
11. People who give up their children for adoption do so because they don't love their child. (Q104)	Strongly Agree	8	2%	4	3%	0	0%	5	2%
	Agree	3	1%	0	0%	0	0%	3	1%
	No Opinion	35	7%	16	10%	10	8%	10	4%
	Disagree	29	5%	15	9%	5	4%	10	4%
	Strongly Disagree	458	86%	129	79%	115	88%	220	89%
12. An adoptive parent has the responsibility to provide significant information to the birth parent related to the needs of the child.	Strongly Agree	146	27%	54	33%	56	43%	37	15%
	Agreed	73	14%	22	13%	16	12%	33	13%
	No Opinion	135	25%	45	27%	29	22%	60	24%
	Disagree	54	10%	14	9%	9	7%	30	12%
	Strongly Disagree	125	24%	29	18%	20	15%	88	35%
13. Persons giving up a child for adoption should have expenses paid by the adoptive families (Q106)	Strongly Agree	78	15%	18	11%	27	21%	35	14%
	Agree	67	13%	20	12%	11	8%	37	15%
	No Opinion	215	40%	71	43%	60	46%	89	36%
	Disagree	64	12%	18	11%	10	8%	37	15%
	Strongly Disagree	109	20%	37	23%	22	17%	50	20%
14. Persons giving up a child for adoption should be able to receive money and benefits above the cost of their expenses. (Q107)	Strongly Agree	12	2%	3	2%	4	3%	4	2%
	Agree	16	3%	5	3%	3	2%	8	3%
	No Opinion	97	18%	30	18%	34	26%	31	12%
	Disagree	56	10%	20	12%	9	7%	28	11%
	Strongly Disagree	352	66%	106	65%	80	62%	177	71%
15. People should be able to sell their child for adoption. (Q108)	Strongly Agree	2	*	1	1%	0	0%	1	*
	Agree	1	*	0	0%	0	0%	1	*
	No Opinion	19	4%	10	6%	5	4%	5	2%
	Disagree	12	2%	6	4%	0	0%	6	2%
	Strongly Disagree	499	94%	147	90%	125	96%	235	95%
16. Gay/lesbian persons should only be able to adopt gay/lesbian children. (Q109)	Strongly Agree	11	2%	3	2%	3	2%	5	2%
	Agree	6	1%	0	0%	0	0%	6	2%
	No Opinion	176	33%	54	33%	39	30%	84	34%
	Disagree	24	4%	7	4%	8	6%	12	5%
	Strongly Disagree	316	59%	100	61%	80	62%	141	57%

* Value rounds to less than 1%.

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II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
17. There should be age limits on who can adopt infants. (Q110)	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
	Strongly Agree	96	18%	31	19%	27	21%	40	16%
	Agree	95	18%	32	20%	19	15%	54	22%
	No Opinion	96	18%	32	20%	34	26%	29	12%
	Disagree	82	15%	21	13%	14	11%	47	19%
	Strongly Disagree	164	31%	48	29%	36	28%	78	31%
18. Adoption is a more desirable option than abortion. (Q111)	Strongly Agree	318	60%	92	56%	78	60%	164	66%
	Agree	47	9%	15	9%	9	7%	23	9%
	No Opinion	97	18%	33	20%	21	16%	39	16%
	Disagree	31	6%	10	6%	6	5%	13	5%
	Strongly Disagree	40	8%	14	9%	16	12%	9	4%
19. An adoptee has the responsibility to provide significant information to the birth parents. (Q112)	Strongly Agree	71	13%	22	13%	40	31%	13	5%
	Agree	59	11%	21	13%	14	11%	19	8%
	No Opinion	145	27%	52	32%	43	33%	58	23%
	Disagree	79	15%	24	15%	15	12%	40	16%
	Strongly Disagree	179	34%	45	27%	18	14%	118	48%
20. Birth parents should be offered or given a subsidy to enable them to keep their children. (Q113)	Strongly Agree	92	17%	29	18%	40	31%	19	8%
	Agree	58	11%	17	10%	15	12%	24	10%
	No Opinion	153	29%	48	29%	35	27%	71	29%
	Disagree	72	14%	21	13%	12	9%	43	17%
	Strongly Disagree	158	30%	49	30%	28	22%	91	37%
21. People who give up their children for adoption do so out of love for their children. (Q114)	Strongly Agree	270	51%	69	42%	81	62%	124	50%
	Agree	117	22%	29	18%	21	16%	71	29%
	No Opinion	112	21%	52	32%	19	15%	39	16%
	Disagree	14	3%	5	3%	3	2%	8	3%
	Strongly Disagree	20	4%	9	5%	6	5%	6	2%
22. Persons should be allowed to adopt a child even if they are not able to financially care for the child. (Q115)	Strongly Agree	23	4%	5	3%	6	5%	10	4%
	Agree	39	7%	4	2%	13	10%	25	10%
	No Opinion	88	17%	31	19%	27	21%	30	12%
	Disagree	125	24%	43	26%	13	10%	66	27%
	Strongly Disagree	258	48%	81	49%	71	55%	117	47%

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II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
23. It should be possible to place a child for adoption before the child is legally free for adoption. (Q116)	Strongly Agree	89	17%	23	14%	20	15%	50	20%
	Agree	69	13%	19	12%	12	9%	42	17%
	No Opinion	123	23%	52	32%	28	22%	42	17%
	Disagree	67	13%	16	10%	10	8%	39	16%
	Strongly Disagree	185	35%	54	33%	60	46%	75	30%
24. Birth parents should have a period of time to change their mind after consenting to adopt. (Q117)	Strongly Agree	189	36%	56	34%	73	56%	56	23%
	Agree	103	19%	32	20%	18	14%	55	22%
	No Opinion	65	12%	24	15%	13	10%	29	12%
	Disagree	49	9%	16	10%	7	5%	26	10%
	Strongly Disagree	127	24%	36	22%	19	15%	82	33%
25. Adopted children are more inclined to develop psychological/emotional problems during adolescence than non-adopted children. (Q118)	Strongly Agree	113	21%	47	29%	35	27%	32	13%
	Agree	73	14%	23	14%	20	15%	29	12%
	No Opinion	99	19%	26	16%	22	17%	42	17%
	Disagree	71	13%	19	12%	10	8%	43	17%
	Strongly Disagree	177	33%	49	30%	43	33%	102	41%
26. A minor birth parent should not be allowed to surrender a child for adoption unless he or she has legal counsel. (Q119)	Strongly Agree	265	50%	88	54%	82	63%	102	42%
	Agree	105	20%	30	18%	11	8%	62	25%
	No Opinion	76	14%	25	15%	15	12%	34	14%
	Disagree	47	9%	10	6%	13	10%	26	10%
	Strongly Disagree	40	8%	11	7%	9	7%	23	9%
27. Adoption is a lifelong process. (Q120)	Strongly Agree	396	74%	114	70%	97	75%	188	76%
	Agree	43	8%	16	10%	7	5%	24	10%
	No Opinion	63	12%	24	15%	13	10%	26	10%
	Disagree	9	2%	3	2%	1	1%	4	2%
	Strongly Disagree	22	4%	7	4%	12	9%	6	2%
28. Brothers and sisters placed for adoption should always be placed together. (Q121)	Strongly Agree	262	49%	96	59%	74	57%	93	38%
	Agree	164	31%	37	23%	30	23%	99	40%
	No Opinion	56	11%	23	14%	14	11%	20	8%
	Disagree	33	6%	4	2%	8	6%	22	9%
	Strongly Disagree	18	3%	4	2%	4	3%	14	6%

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OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
29. Adoption caseworkers are adequately trained. (Q122)	Strongly Agree	68	13%	8	5%	19	15%	43	17%
	Agree	82	15%	14	9%	15	12%	56	23%
	No Opinion	213	40%	90	55%	47	36%	80	32%
	Disagree	84	16%	25	15%	12	9%	42	17%
	Strongly Disagree	86	16%	27	16%	37	28%	27	11%
30. Adoptees should be able to have contact with brothers and sisters not living with them. (Q123)	Strongly Agree	311	58%	111	68%	90	69%	113	46%
	Agree	124	23%	30	18%	24	18%	79	32%
	No Opinion	74	14%	18	11%	10	8%	41	17%
	Disagree	10	2%	2	1%	3	2%	7	3%
	Strongly Disagree	14	3%	3	2%	3	2%	8	3%
31. Doctors, lawyers, and other professionals should be able to place children for adoption without a license to do adoptive placements. (Q124)	Strongly Agree	26	5%	8	5%	5	4%	11	4%
	Agree	26	5%	3	2%	4	3%	20	8%
	No Opinion	78	15%	24	15%	17	13%	39	16%
	Disagree	74	14%	21	13%	14	11%	39	16%
	Strongly Disagree	329	62%	108	66%	90	69%	139	56%
32. Birth parents who give up their child for adoption should have no say about the adoptive home the child goes to. (Q125)	Strongly Agree	54	10%	28	17%	6	5%	26	10%
	Agree	42	8%	13	8%	8	6%	23	9%
	No Opinion	70	13%	28	17%	16	12%	30	12%
	Disagree	116	22%	32	20%	12	9%	75	30%
	Strongly Disagree	251	47%	63	38%	88	68%	94	38%
33. An adoption certificate should be issued instead of a revised birth certificate when a child is adopted. (Q126)	Strongly Agree	184	34%	81	49%	63	48%	39	16%
	Agree	56	10%	27	16%	8	6%	18	7%
	No Opinion	129	24%	24	15%	27	21%	76	31%
	Disagree	39	7%	7	4%	7	5%	25	10%
	Strongly Disagree	125	24%	25	15%	25	19%	90	36%
34. A potential adoptive home and family should be evaluated by a qualified person before a child is placed. (Q127)	Strongly Agree	452	85%	144	88%	119	92%	205	83%
	Agree	48	9%	12	7%	4	3%	29	12%
	No Opinion	27	5%	6	4%	7	5%	9	4%
	Disagree	4	1%	1	1%	0	0%	3	1%
	Strongly Disagree	2	*	1	1%	0	0%	2	1%

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II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
35. All adoptions should go through a public or private adoption agency. (Q128)	Strongly Agree	242	45%	82	50%	59	45%	108	44%
	Agree	87	16%	25	15%	23	18%	37	15%
	No Opinion	101	19%	34	21%	28	22%	45	18%
	Disagree	53	10%	11	7%	8	6%	34	14%
	Strongly Disagree	50	9%	12	7%	12	9%	24	10%
36. Maine children should be adopted only by Maine residents. (Q129)	Strongly Agree	35	7%	9	5%	13	10%	11	4%
	Agree	19	4%	6	4%	5	4%	5	2%
	No Opinion	99	19%	35	21%	32	25%	27	11%
	Disagree	98	18%	30	18%	18	14%	56	23%
	Strongly Disagree	282	53%	84	51%	62	48%	149	60%
37. Birth parents should be able to visit their child after adoption. (Q130)	Strongly Agree	74	14%	21	13%	41	32%	11	4%
	Agree	54	10%	21	13%	12	9%	22	9%
	No Opinion	117	22%	48	29%	34	26%	29	12%
	Disagree	81	15%	28	17%	11	8%	44	18%
	Strongly Disagree	207	39%	46	28%	32	25%	142	57%
38. Adoptees should be able to visit their birth parents after adoption. (Q131)	Strongly Agree	114	21%	43	26%	51	39%	20	8%
	Agree	80	15%	24	15%	21	16%	33	13%
	No Opinion	115	22%	46	28%	25	19%	40	16%
	Disagree	76	14%	23	14%	14	11%	46	19%
	Strongly Disagree	148	28%	28	17%	19	15%	109	44%
39. A birth parent has the responsibility to provide significant information to his/her adopted child. (Q132)	Strongly Agree	351	66%	120	73%	88	68%	150	60%
	Agree	96	18%	22	13%	22	17%	52	21%
	No Opinion	59	11%	16	10%	16	12%	30	12%
	Disagree	17	3%	4	2%	3	2%	10	4%
	Strongly Disagree	10	2%	2	1%	1	1%	6	2%
40. Persons should be offered or given a subsidy to enable them to adopt a child who has special needs. (Q133)	Strongly Agree	297	56%	77	47%	69	53%	158	64%
	Agree	114	21%	38	23%	21	16%	52	21%
	No Opinion	79	15%	33	20%	27	21%	26	10%
	Disagree	11	2%	4	2%	3	2%	2	1%
	Strongly Disagree	32	6%	12	7%	10	8%	10	4%

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II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
All Responses		533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
41. There should be age limits on who can adopt children with handicaps or special needs. (Q134)	Strongly Agree	82	15%	36	22%	24	18%	26	10%
	Agree	93	17%	32	20%	20	15%	47	19%
	No Opinion	128	24%	39	24%	34	26%	56	23%
	Disagree	82	15%	20	12%	18	14%	40	16%
	Strongly Disagree	148	28%	37	23%	34	26%	79	32%
42. It is good for adoptees and birth parents to be reunited. (Q135)	Strongly Agree	177	33%	71	43%	81	62%	29	12%
	Agree	99	19%	38	23%	19	15%	40	16%
	No Opinion	190	36%	44	27%	22	17%	124	50%
	Disagree	41	8%	7	4%	5	4%	32	13%
	Strongly Disagree	26	5%	4	2%	3	2%	23	9%
43. An adoptee has a right to learn about his/her birth parents, even if the birth parents wish privacy. (Q136)	Strongly Agree	216	40%	98	60%	64	49%	53	21%
	Agree	104	20%	31	19%	25	19%	56	23%
	No Opinion	71	13%	14	9%	22	17%	35	14%
	Disagree	66	12%	5	3%	12	9%	51	21%
	Strongly Disagree	76	14%	16	10%	7	5%	53	21%
44. The right of an adoptee to learn is more important than a birth parent's right to privacy/secretcy. (Q137)	Strongly Agree	175	33%	78	48%	52	40%	44	18%
	Agree	108	20%	38	23%	28	22%	47	19%
	No Opinion	90	17%	17	10%	26	20%	44	18%
	Disagree	67	13%	9	5%	9	7%	52	21%
	Strongly Disagree	93	17%	22	13%	15	12%	61	25%
45. An adult adoptee has a right to learn about his/her birth parents, even if the adoptive parents object. (Q138)	Strongly Agree	293	55%	114	70%	79	61%	97	39%
	Agree	118	22%	29	18%	27	21%	68	27%
	No Opinion	61	11%	11	7%	15	12%	37	15%
	Disagree	27	5%	3	2%	4	3%	23	9%
	Strongly Disagree	34	6%	7	4%	5	4%	23	9%
46. An adoptive parent has a right to learn about his/her child's parents even if the birth parent wishes privacy. (Q139)	Strongly Agree	153	29%	69	42%	50	38%	37	15%
	Agree	97	18%	28	17%	26	20%	48	19%
	No Opinion	90	17%	28	17%	17	13%	42	17%
	Disagree	82	15%	14	9%	15	12%	56	23%
	Strongly Disagree	111	21%	25	15%	22	17%	65	26%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

II. OPINIONS (Continued)

For each of the following statements,
please indicate whether you agree or
disagree or have no opinion.

		All Responses		Adoptees		Birth Parents		Adoptive Parents	
	All Responses	533	100%	164	100%	130	100%	248	100%
47. An unmarried father should be able to prevent the adoption of his child. (Q140)	Strongly Agree	156	29%	62	38%	44	34%	49	20%
	Agree	109	20%	26	16%	27	21%	57	23%
	No Opinion	118	22%	43	26%	29	22%	49	20%
	Disagree	70	13%	18	11%	12	9%	45	18%
	Strongly Disagree	80	15%	15	9%	18	14%	48	19%
48. An adoptive parent should support/aid the adoptee's search. (Q141)	Strongly Agree	258	48%	90	55%	70	54%	105	42%
	Agree	122	23%	30	18%	23	18%	68	27%
	No Opinion	119	22%	37	23%	31	24%	55	22%
	Disagree	18	3%	3	2%	3	2%	11	4%
	Strongly Disagree	16	3%	4	2%	3	2%	9	4%
49. It is good when a birth parent is found. (Q142)	Strongly Agree	179	34%	73	45%	74	57%	34	14%
	Agree	86	16%	32	20%	19	15%	35	14%
	No Opinion	239	45%	55	34%	34	26%	155	62%
	Disagree	20	4%	3	2%	2	2%	18	7%
	Strongly Disagree	9	2%	1	1%	1	1%	6	2%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

	All Responses	As Infant (Age < 1)	As Child (Age 1-17)	As Adult (Age 18+)	No Response
A. At what age were you adopted? (Q1)	160 100%	108 68%	49 31%	2 1%	1 1%
	All Responses	1922-1953	1954-1969	1970-1987	No Response
B. What year were you adopted? (Q2)	160 100%	64 40%	84 53%	10 6%	2 1%
	All Responses	1921-1953	1954-1969	1970-1979	No Response
C. What year were you born? (Q3)	160 100%	69 43%	84 53%	5 3%	2 1%
	All Responses	Yes	No		
D. Do you belong to an adoption- related organization? (Q4)	160 100%	66 41%	94 59%		

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. YOUR ADOPTION

1. Were you adopted

a. Through an agency? (Q5)

B. Privately? (Q6)

Through a doctor (Q7)

Through a lawyer (Q8)

Through a relative (Q9)

Through a family friend (Q10)

Other (Q11)

2. Did any part of the adoption
process take place in Maine?
(Q12)

3. If so, which part?

a. Were you born in Maine?
(Q13)

b. Did you live in Maine
before being placed
for adoption? (Q14)

c. Did the adoptive
family live in Maine?
(Q15)

d. Did a Maine court
handle the adoption?
(Q16)

4. Were you represented by a
lawyer during the adoption
proceeding? (Q17)

	All Usable Responses	Yes	No	Don't Know	No Response
a. Through an agency? (Q5)	160 100%	102 64%	23 14%	18 11%	17 11%
B. Privately? (Q6)	160 100%	16 10%	34 21%	15 9%	95 59%
Through a doctor (Q7)	16 100%	5 31%	0 0%	0 0%	11 69%
Through a lawyer (Q8)	16 100%	4 25%	0 0%	1 6%	11 69%
Through a relative (Q9)	16 100%	0 0%	0 0%	1 6%	15 94%
Through a family friend (Q10)	16 100%	2 12%	0 0%	1 6%	13 81%
Other (Q11)	16 100%	2 12%	1 6%	3 19%	10 62%
2. Did any part of the adoption process take place in Maine? (Q12)	160 100%	106 66%	49 31%	2 1%	3 2%
3. If so, which part?					
a. Were you born in Maine? (Q13)	106 100%	96 91%	9 8%	1 1%	0 0%
b. Did you live in Maine before being placed for adoption? (Q14)	106 100%	92 87%	6 6%	3 3%	5 5%
c. Did the adoptive family live in Maine? (Q15)	106 100%	100 94%	3 3%	3 3%	0 0%
d. Did a Maine court handle the adoption? (Q16)	106 100%	91 86%	5 5%	9 8%	1 1%
	All Responses	Yes	No	Don't Know/No Response	Should have been Provided
4. Were you represented by a lawyer during the adoption proceeding? (Q17)	160 100%	42 26%	29 18%	76 48%	13 8%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

B. AFTER YOU WERE ADOPTED

1. Have you ever returned to the agency/person through whom you were adopted? (Q18)	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response			
	160	100%	93	58%	58	36%	9	6%		
2. If so, what service did you request:										
a. Information about the current well-being of your birth family? (Q19)	All Usable Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		Yes, and Service Was Provided	
	93	100%	66	71%	17	18%	9	10%	1	1%
If so, which family members:										
your birth mother	66	100%	59	89%	1	2%	6	9%	0	0%
your birth father	66	100%	51	77%	3	4%	12	18%	0	0%
brothers/sisters	66	100%	43	65%	5	8%	18	27%	0	0%
grandparents	66	100%	31	47%	5	8%	30	46%	0	0%
others (Q24)	66	100%	15	23%	5	8%	44	67%	2	3%
b. Any other information about your birth family? (Q25)	93	100%	69	74%	14	15%	7	8%	3	3%
c. That the agency/person assist you in locating your birth family?	93	100%	47	50%	37	40%	8	9%	1	1%
d. That the agency/person pass on information to your birth family?	93	100%	39	42%	41	44%	11	12%	2	2%
e. That the agency/person place updated information in your file? (Q28)	93	100%	40	43%	35	38%	16	17%	2	2%
f. Counseling? (Q29)	93	100%	13	14%	67	72%	11	12%	2	2%
g. Assistance with problems? (Q30)	93	100%	17	18%	59	63%	16	17%	1	1%
h. Other (Q31)	93	100%	12	13%	9	10%	72	77%	0	0%
3. Were you satisfied with the agency/person's response? (Q32)	All Usable Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know		No Response	
	93	100%	33	36%	48	52%	5	5%	7	8%
4. Have you received services from another source related to adoption?	160	100%	48	30%	67	42%	4	3%	41	26%
5. Are you aware of the following agencies or support groups which assist persons affected by adoption:										
a. Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)? (Q34)	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know		Yes, and Have Used Their Svcs	
	160	100%	50	31%	91	57%	6	4%	6	4%
b. Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	160	100%	76	48%	51	32%	6	4%	23	14%
c. Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry?	160	100%	77	48%	60	38%	3	2%	13	8%
d. Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)?	160	100%	23	14%	110	69%	10	6%	2	1%
e. National groups?	160	100%	44	28%	83	52%	6	4%	11	7%
f. Other (Q39)	160	100%	7	4%	17	11%	3	2%	4	2%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

6. If you want to search for your birth family, do you need:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know		No, but Service Is Available		No Response	
a. Emotional support? (Q40)	160	100%	82	51%	34	21%	12	8%	0	0%	32	20%
b. Informational support? (Q41)	160	100%	127	79%	8	5%	5	3%	1	1%	19	12%
c. Search support? (Q42)	160	100%	118	74%	14	9%	8	5%	1	1%	19	12%

7. Do you want the following services:

a. Access to a person/counselor sensitive to and familiar with adoption issues? (Q43)	160	100%	88	55%	35	22%	14	9%	5	3%	18	11%
b. Access to other adoptees to discuss adoption issues? (Q44)	160	100%	75	47%	44	28%	20	12%	4	2%	17	11%

	All Usable Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know		No Response	
8. Do you have current unmet service needs related to adoption? (Q45)	160	100%	100	62%	39	24%	9	6%	12	8%

9. If so, do they include:

a. Medical/social information about your birth family? (Q46)	100	100%	85	85%	11	11%	0	0%	4	4%
b. To provide/receive updated information to your birth family? (Q47)	100	100%	74	74%	15	15%	4	4%	7	7%
c. Information about inheritance laws that affect you? (Q48)	100	100%	53	53%	33	33%	8	8%	6	6%
d. Social/developmental information about your background? (Q49)	100	100%	75	75%	21	21%	1	1%	3	3%
e. Information about periods of separation and attachment in your background? (Q50)	100	100%	60	60%	29	29%	4	4%	7	5%
f. Counseling? (Q51)	100	100%	23	23%	60	60%	10	10%	7	7%
g. Psychological/psychiatric services? (Q52)	100	100%	14	14%	64	64%	13	13%	9	9%
h. Referral to a professional qualified to counsel on adoption issues?	100	100%	28	28%	52	52%	11	11%	9	9%
i. Other (Q54)	100	100%	7	7%	8	8%	2	2%	83	83%

	All Responses		Yes		No		No Response	
9. Can you recommend any professionals who are especially qualified to counsel on adoption issues? (Q55)	160	100%	22	14%	111	69%	27	17%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

IF YOU WERE NOT ADOPTED AS AN INFANT,

C. BEFORE YOU WERE ADOPTED

	All Usable Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No, Should Have Been Provided	
1. Were you given information about options other than adoption? (Q56)	52	100%	5	10%	16	31%	30	58%	1	2%
2. If so, did they include:										
custody to another person such as a relative (Q57)	5	100%	0	0%	2	40%	3	60%	0	0%
foster care (Q58)	5	100%	3	60%	1	20%	1	20%	0	0%
3. Were you given explanation of:										
a. The adoption procedure? (Q59)	52	100%	7	14%	13	25%	31	60%	1	2%
b. The legal process?	52	100%	7	14%	12	23%	32	62%	1	2%
c. The homestudy of your adoptive parents?	52	100%	6	12%	13	25%	32	62%	1	2%
d. The legal forms?	52	100%	5	10%	11	21%	35	67%	1	2%
4. Were you given an opportunity to read any legal forms you signed? (Q63)	52	100%	3	6%	14	27%	34	65%	1	2%
5. Were you given an opportunity to assist in selecting the family who would adopt you? (Q64)	52	100%	4	8%	15	29%	32	62%	1	2%
6. If so, did it include:										
a. Information about the family? (Q65)	4	100%	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
b. Ability to select from descriptions of several families?	4	100%	1	25%	1	25%	2	50%	0	0%
c. Meeting the adoptive families?	4	100%	3	75%	0	0%	1	25%	0	0%
7. Were you provided with the following?										
a. Medical history for you and your birth family? (Q68)	52	100%	2	4%	18	35%	29	56%	3	6%
b. Social history for you and your birth family? (Q69)	52	100%	1	2%	19	36%	29	56%	3	6%
c. Your birth family's personal and physical characteristics?	52	100%	1	2%	19	36%	29	56%	3	6%
8. Did anyone talk with you about grief, separation and loss issues related to your adoption? (Q71)	52	100%	4	8%	16	31%	29	56%	3	6%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

BIRTHPARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

A. Your age at child's birth (Q1)	All Responses		Age 15-19		Age 20-24		Age 25-41		No Response			
	98	100%	62	63%	26	27%	4	4%	6	6%		
B. Year of child's birth (Q2)	All Responses		1946		1955-1969		1970-1979		1980-1988		No Response	
	98	100%	1	1%	53	54%	21	21%	20	20%	3	3%
C. Marital Status (Q3)	All Responses		Married		Divorced		Separated		Single		No Response	
	98	100%	9	9%	6	6%	2	2%	78	80%	3	3%
D. Do you belong to an adoption- related organization? (Q4)	All Responses		Yes		No		No Response					
	98	100%	41	42%	50	51%	7	7%				

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. THE ADOPTION

1. Did any part of the adoption process take place in Maine? (Q5)	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/ No Response	
	98	100%	72	74%	20	20%	6	6%
2. If so, which part?								
a. Was your child born in Maine? (Q6)	72	100%	69	96%	1	1%	2	3%
b. Did your child live in Maine before being placed for adoption?	72	100%	62	86%	3	4%	7	10%
c. Did the adoptive family live in Maine? (Q8)	72	100%	46	64%	4	6%	22	31%
d. Did a Maine court handle the adoption? (Q9)	72	100%	60	83%	2	3%	10	14%
3. Was your child placed:								
a. Through an agency? (Q10)	98	100%	76	78%	11	11%	11	11%
b. Privately:								
through a doctor? (Q11)	98	100%	10	10%	14	14%	74	76%
through a lawyer? (Q12)	98	100%	7	7%	13	13%	78	80%
through a relative? (Q13)	98	100%	1	1%	15	15%	82	84%
through a friend of family	98	100%	2	2%	15	15%	81	83%
Other (Q15)	98	100%	2	2%	10	10%	86	88%
4. Did s/he represent:								
a. You (Q16)	98	100%	17	17%	13	13%	68	69%
b. The adoptive parents (Q17)	98	100%	16	16%	12	12%	70	71%
c. An agency (Q18)	98	100%	25	26%	7	7%	66	67%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

BIRTHPARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

A. THE ADOPTION

5. What was the legal basis for the adoption?	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/ No Response	
a. Consent (Q19)	98	100%	17	17%	6	6%	75	77%
b. Surrender and release (Q20)	98	100%	37	38%	5	5%	56	57%
c. Voluntary termination of parental rights (Q21)	98	100%	25	26%	4	4%	69	70%
d. Involuntary termination of parental rights (Q22)	98	100%	13	13%	12	12%	73	74%
e. I signed a paper, but I don't know what it was (Q23)	98	100%	38	39%	10	10%	50	51%

B. BEFORE YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED FOR ADOPTION:

1. Were you given information about options other than adoption? (Q24)	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No, Should Have Been Provided	
	98	100%	23	24%	44	45%	7	7%	24	24%
2. If so, did they include:										
a. Keeping and raising your child (Q25)	23	100%	21	91%	1	4%	0	0%	1	4%
b. Abortion (Q26)	23	100%	16	70%	5	22%	2	9%	0	0%
c. Custody or guardianship to another person, such as a relative	23	100%	8	35%	10	44%	2	9%	3	13%
d. Temporary foster care	23	100%	12	52%	6	26%	2	9%	3	13%
3. Were the following explained to you?										
a. The adoption procedure?	98	100%	34	35%	31	32%	8	8%	25	26%
b. The legal process? (Q30)	98	100%	28	29%	35	36%	10	10%	25	26%
c. The homestudy of the adoptive parents? (Q31)	98	100%	23	24%	37	38%	13	13%	25	26%
d. The legal forms? (Q32)	98	100%	26	26%	37	38%	10	10%	25	26%
4. Were you given the opportunity to read the legal forms you signed? (Q33)	98	100%	40	41%	20	20%	20	20%	18	18%
5. Were you given an opportunity to assist in selecting the family who would adopt your child? (Q34)	98	100%	18	18%	57	58%	5	5%	18	18%
6. If so, did it include:										
Information about the family? (Q35)	18	100%	18	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Ability to select from descriptions of several families? (Q36)	18	100%	13	72%	4	22%	1	6%	0	0%
Meeting the adoptive families? (Q37)	18	100%	1	6%	15	83%	1	6%	1	6%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

BIRTHPARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

B. BEFORE YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED FOR ADOPTION:

7. Did you provide (Q38-Q40)	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No, Should Have Been Provided	
a. Your medical history?	98	100%	52	53%	16	16%	18	18%	12	12%
b. Your social history?	98	100%	46	47%	22	22%	18	18%	12	12%
c. Your family's personal and physical characteristics?	98	100%	44	45%	24	24%	18	18%	12	12%
8. Were you provided counseling on grief separation and loss issues? (Q41)	98	100%	15	15%	47	48%	7	7%	29	30%
9. Were any of your family members also provided counseling? (Q42)	98	100%	9	9%	60	61%	8	8%	21	21%
10. Were you provided information about whether your child would have the right to inherit from you? (Q43)	98	100%	11	11%	52	53%	9	9%	26	26%
11. Were you given an explanation about confidentiality of adoption records? (Q44)	98	100%	35	36%	33	34%	15	15%	15	15%
12. Were you given financial support for:										
a. Living expenses while pregnant? (Q45)	98	100%	19	19%	65	66%	10	10%	4	4%
b. Maternity clothing?	98	100%	12	12%	72	74%	9	9%	5	5%
c. Medical expenses while pregnant? (Q47)	98	100%	32	33%	52	53%	11	11%	3	3%
d. Doctors charge for delivery? (Q48)	98	100%	39	40%	45	46%	12	12%	2	2%
e. Hospital costs? (Q49)	98	100%	39	40%	43	44%	14	14%	2	2%
f. Follow up medical costs after the birth of the baby?	98	100%	21	21%	58	59%	15	15%	4	4%
g. Dental care? (Q51)	98	100%	5	5%	77	79%	12	12%	4	4%
h. Eye care? (Q52)	98	100%	3	3%	79	81%	12	12%	4	4%
i. Special housing during pregnancy?	98	100%	21	21%	64	65%	11	11%	2	2%
j. Counseling during pregnancy? (Q54)	98	100%	18	18%	59	60%	11	11%	10	10%
k. Counseling after the birth of the baby?	98	100%	13	13%	63	64%	10	10%	12	12%
l. Other (Q56)	98	100%	3	3%	16	16%	76	78%	3	3%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis
BIRTHPARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

C. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS ADOPTED:

1. Have you ever returned to the agency/person through whom your child was placed for adoption?	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		Yes and Svc was Provided	
	98	100%	65	66%	23	24%	10	10%		
2. If so, what service did you request:										
a. Reassurance about your decision to have your child adopted? (Q58)	65	100%	25	38%	19	29%	21	32%	0	0%
b. Information about the well-being of your child? (Q60)	65	100%	50	77%	4	6%	10	15%	1	2%
c. Information about your child? (Q60)	65	100%	57	88%	1	2%	5	8%	2	3%
d. That the agency/person assist you in locating your child? (Q61)	65	100%	28	43%	27	42%	9	14%	1	2%
e. That the agency/person pass on information to your child and/or his/her adoptive family? (Q62)	65	100%	39	60%	12	18%	13	20%	1	2%
f. That the agency/person place updated information in your file? (Q63)	65	100%	41	63%	8	12%	15	23%	1	2%
g. Counseling? (Q64)	65	100%	15	23%	35	54%	15	23%	0	0%
h. Assistance with problems? (Q65)	65	100%	17	26%	31	48%	17	26%	0	0%
i. Other (Q66)	65	100%	6	9%	3	5%	56	86%	0	0%
3. Were you satisfied with the agency's/person's response?	98	100%	28	29%	43	44%	27	28%		
4. Have you received services from another source related to adoption? (Q68)	98	100%	33	34%	43	44%	22	22%		

5. Are you aware of the following agencies or support groups which assist persons affected by adoption:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		Yes and Have Used Their Svc	
	98	100%	28	29%	37	38%	21	21%	12	12%
a. Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)?	98	100%	28	29%	37	38%	21	21%	12	12%
b. Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	98	100%	48	49%	24	24%	16	16%	10	10%
c. Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry? (Q71)	98	100%	37	38%	29	30%	24	24%	8	8%
d. Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)? (Q72)	98	100%	21	21%	45	46%	32	33%	0	0%
e. National groups?	98	100%	25	26%	34	35%	36	37%	3	3%
f. Other (Q74)	98	100%	2	2%	6	6%	86	88%	4	4%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

BIRTHPARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

C. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS ADOPTED:

6. If you want to search for your child, do you need:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No Because It is Available	
a. Emotional support? (Q75)	98	100%	45	46%	16	16%	33	34%	4	4%
b. Informational support?	98	100%	64	65%	7	7%	23	23%	4	4%
c. Search support? (Q77)	98	100%	62	63%	9	9%	24	24%	3	3%

7. Do you want the following services:

a. Access to a person/counselor sensitive to and familiar with adoption issues?	98	100%	50	51%	19	19%	24	24%	5	5%
b. Access to other birth parents to discuss adoption issues? (Q79)	98	100%	44	45%	19	19%	28	29%	7	7%

8. Do you have current unmet service needs related to adoption? (Q80)	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know		No Response	
	98	100%	48	49%	35	36%	10	10%	5	5%

9. If so, do they include:

a. Medical/social information about your child? (Q81)	48	100%	33	69%	8	17%	0	0%	7	15%
b. To provide/receive updated information to my adopted child and/or his or her adoptive parents? (Q82)	48	100%	32	67%	6	12%	0	0%	10	21%
c. Information about inheritance laws that affect you? (Q83)	48	100%	27	56%	12	25%	0	0%	9	19%
d. Counseling? (Q84)	48	100%	16	33%	18	38%	3	6%	11	23%
e. Psychological/psychiatric services? (Q85)	48	100%	9	19%	27	56%	1	2%	11	23%
f. Referral to a professional qualified to counsel on adoption issues? (Q86)	48	100%	14	29%	18	38%	2	4%	14	29%

10. Can you recommend any professionals who are especially qualified to counsel on adoption issues? (Q87)	98	100%	21	21%	47	48%	13	13%	17	17%
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ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

A. How many children did you adopt?

	All Responses		One Child		Two Children		Three+ Children		None/No Response	
Number of Boys (Q1)	232	100%	115	50%	27	12%	5	2%	85	37%
Number of Girls (Q2)	232	100%	115	50%	24	10%	7	3%	86	37%

B. Did you adopt:

	All Responses		One Child		Two Children		Three+ Children		None/No Response	
1. Infant birth to age one year (Q3-Q5)	232	100%	128	55%	36	16%	4	2%	64	28%
2. Young child 1 to 5	232	100%	43	18%	16	7%	1	*	172	74%
3. Older child 5 to 18	232	100%	33	14%	11	5%	4	2%	184	79%
4. Sibling group (Q12-Q14)	232	100%	5	2%	10	4%	3	1%	214	92%
5. Physically handicapped	232	100%	14	6%	3	1%	1	*	214	92%
6. Mentally/emotionally handicapped (Q18-20)	232	100%	12	5%	2	1%	5	2%	213	92%
7. Mixed race (Q21-23)	232	100%	21	9%	3	1%	1	*	207	89%
8. Child from another country (Q24-Q26)	232	100%	39	17%	10	4%	6	3%	177	76%
9. Other (Q27-Q29)	232	100%	7	3%	2	1%	1	*	222	96%

	All Responses		Yes		No/No Response	
C. Did any part of the (first) adoption process take place in Maine? (Q30-Q33)	232	100%	211	91%	21	9%

D. If so, which part or parts?

1. Was your (first) child born in Maine? (Q34-Q37)	211	100%	98	46%	113	54%
2. Did your (first) child live in Maine before being placed for adoption? (Q38-Q41)	211	100%	92	44%	119	56%
3. Did you live in Maine during the (first) adoption process? (Q42-Q45)	211	100%	195	92%	16	8%
4. Did a Maine court handle the adoption? (Q46-Q49)	211	100%	192	91%	19	9%

A. THE ADOPTION

	All Responses		Yes		No/No Response	
1. Was your (first) child placed through an agency? (Q50-Q53)	232	100%	191	82%	41	18%
b. Privately:						
through a doctor (Q54-Q57)	232	100%	8	3%	224	97%
through a lawyer (Q58-Q61)	232	100%	7	3%	225	97%
through a relative (Q62-Q65)	232	100%	3	1%	229	97%
through a friend of family (Q66-Q69)	232	100%	14	6%	218	94%
Other (Q70-Q73)	232	100%	7	3%	225	97%

*Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis
ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

I. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

B. BEFORE YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED WITH YOU:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No, Should Have Been Provided	
1. Were you provided counseling regarding infertility issues? (Q74)	232	100%	101	44%	89	38%	36	16%	6	3%
2. Were you referred to:										
RESOLVE (infertility support organization)	232	100%	40	17%	118	51%	67	29%	7	3%
Other (Q76)	232	100%	5	2%	44	19%	182	78%	1	*
3. Were you provided with:										
a. Social/medical history of the child? (Q77)	232	100%	183	79%	21	9%	11	5%	17	7%
b. Developmental needs of the age of the child adopted? (Q78)	232	100%	143	62%	45	19%	24	10%	20	9%
c. Need of the adopted child to be informed about his or her biological family?	232	100%	138	60%	58	25%	25	11%	11	5%
d. The possible need for and desire of the adopted child to search for and have a reunion with his or her biological family?	232	100%	145	62%	50	22%	27	12%	10	4%
4. Were you provided with specific needs of the particular child adopted:										
a. Behaviors to watch for or expect? (Q81)	232	100%	122	53%	57	25%	39	17%	14	6%
b. Sexuality issues	232	100%	61	26%	95	41%	64	28%	12	5%
c. Religious practices	232	100%	92	40%	78	34%	53	23%	9	4%
d. Ethnic/cultural issues	232	100%	107	46%	65	28%	50	22%	10	4%
e. Racial issues (Q85)	232	100%	97	42%	68	29%	57	25%	10	4%
f. Loss/separation issues	232	100%	108	47%	57	25%	49	21%	18	8%
g. Educational (Q87)	232	100%	87	38%	77	33%	60	26%	8	3%
h. Psychological	232	100%	87	38%	69	30%	59	25%	17	7%
i. Special abilities/talents	232	100%	73	32%	83	36%	64	28%	12	5%
j. Methods of discipline	232	100%	72	31%	88	38%	61	26%	11	5%
k. Likes and dislikes (Q91)	232	100%	108	47%	63	27%	51	22%	10	4%
l. Food and contact allergies (Q92)	232	100%	123	53%	54	23%	43	19%	12	5%

*Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

B. BEFORE YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED WITH YOU:

5. Were you provided:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No, Should Have Been Provided	
a. Information about inheritance laws affecting you and your adopted child/ren? (Q93)	232	100%	97	42%	94	40%	19	8%	22	10%
b. Explanation about confidentiality of adoption records?	232	100%	172	74%	31	13%	18	8%	11	5%
c. Information about available financial assistance for special needs children (subsidy)? (Q95)	232	100%	85	37%	94	40%	38	16%	15	6%
d. Information about available support groups which assist persons affected by adoption?	232	100%	131	56%	63	27%	21	9%	17	7%

If yes, which ones?

(1) Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)?	131	100%	10	8%	30	23%	89	68%	2	2%
(2) Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	131	100%	14	11%	29	22%	87	66%	1	1%
(3) Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry?	131	100%	22	17%	26	20%	82	63%	1	1%
(4) Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)?	131	100%	94	72%	6	5%	31	24%	0	0%
(5) National groups?	131	100%	32	24%	20	15%	78	60%	1	1%
(6) Other (Q102)	131	100%	25	19%	7	5%	98	75%	1	1%

C. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED WITH YOU AND BEFORE ADOPTION FINALIZATION:

1. Were you provided by the agency/ person assisting you with supervisory visits? (Q103)	232	100%	197	85%	10	4%	15	6%	10	4%
2. Were you given a letter from the birth parents to their child? (Q104)	232	100%	37	16%	170	73%	11	5%	14	6%
3. Did you write to the birth parents giving them news about their child?	232	100%	55	24%	157	68%	11	5%	9	4%
4. Is there any ongoing communication between you and your child's birth parents? (Q106)	232	100%	30	13%	184	79%	12	5%	6	3%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis
ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

C. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED WITH YOU AND BEFORE ADOPTION FINALIZATION:

5. Were you provided with		All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No, Should Have Been Provided	
a. Photographs of child? (Q107)		232	100%	150	65%	55	24%	20	9%	7	3%
b. Your child's birth certificate.		232	100%	127	55%	80	34%	18	8%	7	3%
If yes, was it the original birth certificate?		127	100%	51	40%	60	47%	15	12%	1	1%
c. Non-identifying background information on your child's biological family?		232	100%	147	63%	47	20%	24	10%	14	6%
d. Identifying background information on your child's biological family?		232	100%	80	34%	117	50%	27	12%	8	3%
If so, was it in writing?		80	100%	66	82%	7	9%	7	9%	0	0%
e. Gift from birth parents to your child? (Q113)		232	100%	38	16%	171	74%	17	7%	6	3%
f. Medical/genetic history on your child?		232	100%	149	64%	45	19%	19	8%	19	8%
If so, was it in writing?		149	100%	117	78%	23	15%	8	5%	1	1%
g. Cultural/ethnic background on your child? (Q116)		232	100%	166	72%	35	15%	21	9%	10	4%
h. Racial background of your child?		232	100%	152	66%	43	18%	26	11%	11	5%
i. Counseling? (Q118)		232	100%	113	49%	84	36%	24	10%	11	5%
j. Parenting training?		232	100%	91	39%	103	44%	25	11%	13	6%
k. Other (Q120)		232	100%	5	2%	16	7%	210	91%	1	*
2. Were you satisfied with the agency/person's services? (Q121)											
		232	100%	190	82%	22	10%	20	9%		
3. Did you seek the services of any other source during this time?											
		232	100%	39	17%	183	79%	10	4%		
4. Did you participate in a "legal risk" placement? (Q123)											
		232	100%	20	9%	192	83%	20	9%		

*Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

D. WHEN YOUR CHILD'S ADOPTION WAS LEGALLY FINALIZED:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		No, Should Have Been Provided	
1. Were you represented by an attorney? (Q124)	232	100%	128	55%	83	36%	18	8%	3	1%
2. If so, did s/he represent:										
a. You (Q125)	128	100%	115	90%	2	2%	11	9%		
b. The biological parents	128	100%	3	2%	36	28%	89	70%		
c. The agency, if any	128	100%	23	18%	27	21%	78	61%		
3. What was the legal basis for the adoption?										
a. Consent (Q128)	232	100%	46	20%	13	6%	173	75%		
b. Surrender and release	232	100%	75	32%	9	4%	148	64%		
c. Voluntary termination of parental rights	232	100%	92	40%	10	4%	130	56%		
d. Involuntary termination of parental rights	232	100%	25	11%	34	15%	173	75%		
4. Were you provided with any legal documents? (Q132)	232	100%	145	62%	33	14%	50	22%	4	2%
5. Was there any counseling provided during the adoption finalization process? (Q133)	232	100%	98	42%	98	42%	28	12%	8	3%

E. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS ADOPTED:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		Yes and Svc was Provided	
1. Have you ever returned to the agency/person through whom your child was placed for adoption? (Q134)	232	100%	142	61%	66	28%	24	10%		
2. If yes, what service did you request:										
a. Reassurance about your decision to adopt? (Q135)	142	100%	9	6%	85	60%	48	34%	0	0%
b. Information about the well-being of your child's birth parents?	142	100%	31	22%	70	49%	40	28%	1	1%
c. Information about your child's birth parents?	142	100%	32	22%	73	51%	37	26%	0	0%
d. Information about your child's previous foster families?	142	100%	15	11%	81	57%	45	32%	1	1%
e. Information about your child's siblings?	142	100%	19	13%	81	57%	42	30%	0	0%
f. Information about your child's biological grandparents? (Q140)	142	100%	14	10%	82	58%	45	32%	1	1%

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis
ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION (Continued)

E. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS ADOPTED:

2. If yes, what service did you request:

g. That the agency/person assist you in locating your child's biological family member?

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		Yes and Svc was Provided	
Birth mother (Q141)	142	100%	9	6%	84	59%	49	35%	0	0%
Birth father	142	100%	3	2%	83	58%	56	39%	0	0%
Sibling	142	100%	9	6%	79	56%	54	38%	0	0%
Half-sibling	142	100%	6	4%	80	56%	56	39%	0	0%
Grandparents	142	100%	1	1%	79	56%	62	44%	0	0%
Other (Q146)	142	100%	8	6%	63	44%	70	49%	1	1%

h. That the agency/person pass on information to his/her birth family member or foster family? (Q147)

142	100%	41	29%	65	46%	36	25%	0	0%
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If yes, specify type of information passed on:

Medical (Q148)	41	100%	14	34%	9	22%	11	27%
Social	41	100%	28	68%	2	5%	11	27%
Other	41	100%	23	56%	2	5%	16	39%

i. That the agency/person place updated information in your file?

142	100%	41	29%	55	39%	45	32%	1	1%
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j. Counseling? (Q152)

142	100%	18	13%	73	51%	50	35%	1	1%
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k. How to cope with your child's behavior?

142	100%	31	22%	73	51%	37	26%	1	1%
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l. How to develop new parenting skills?

142	100%	27	19%	77	54%	37	26%	1	1%
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m. How to help your child develop trust in relationships?

142	100%	18	13%	83	58%	40	28%	1	1%
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n. How to work with school systems?

142	100%	21	15%	81	57%	39	28%	1	1%
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o. How to find financial aid for your child's special needs?

142	100%	14	10%	84	59%	44	31%	0	0%
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p. How to cope with adoption dissolution (disruption)?

142	100%	7	5%	90	63%	45	32%	0	0%
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q. How to cope with cultural differences?

142	100%	23	16%	76	54%	42	30%	1	1%
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r. Assistance with problems?

142	100%	25	18%	71	50%	46	32%	0	0%
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s. Other (161)

142	100%	14	10%	27	19%	100	70%	1	1%
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ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

E. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS ADOPTED:

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response		Yes, and Svc was Provided	
3. Were you satisfied with the agency/person's response? (Q162)	142	100%	101	71%	14	10%	26	18%	1	1%
4. Have you received services from another source related to adoption?	232	100%	44	19%	125	54%	63	27%	0	0%
5. Are you aware of the following agencies or support groups which assist persons affected by adoption?										
a. Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)?	232	100%	59	25%	128	55%	44	19%	1	*
b. Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	232	100%	90	39%	104	45%	36	16%	2	1%
c. Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry?	232	100%	82	35%	107	46%	40	17%	3	1%
d. RESOLVE? (Q167)	232	100%	100	43%	83	36%	48	21%	1	*
e. Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)?	232	100%	141	61%	58	25%	30	13%	3	2%
f. National groups?	232	100%	69	30%	98	42%	63	27%	2	1%
g. Other support groups (Q170)	232	100%	42	18%	71	31%	118	51%	1	*
6. Do you have current unmet service needs related to adoption? (Q171)	232	100%	158	68%	74	32%				
7. If so, do they include:										
a. Medical information about your child's biological background? (Q172)	158	100%	59	37%	75	48%	24	15%		
b. Social/developmental information about the child's background?	158	100%	23	15%	100	63%	35	22%		
c. Information about periods of separation and attachment in your child's background?	158	100%	21	13%	98	62%	39	25%		
d. To provide/receive updated information to my adopted child's biological family and/or foster family?	158	100%	28	18%	88	56%	42	27%		
e. A support group for adoptive parents?	158	100%	17	11%	101	64%	40	25%		
f. Professional services of a qualified individual(s) who is trained to counsel on adoption issues? (Q177)	158	100%	22	14%	95	60%	41	26%		
g. Counseling?	158	100%	16	10%	108	68%	34	22%		
h. Psychological or psychiatric services?	158	100%	19	12%	106	67%	33	21%		
i. Information about my adopted child's legal inheritance rights?	158	100%	21	13%	102	65%	35	22%		
j. Other (181)	158	100%	3	2%	38	24%	117	74%		

*Value rounds to less than 1%.

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
Final Questionnaire Analysis

ADOPTIVE PARENT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

	All Responses		Yes		No		Don't Know/No Response	
8. Can you recommend any professionals who are especially qualified to counsel on adoption issues? (Q182)	232	100%	46	20%	129	56%	57	25%
10. Do you have any additional comments on adoption issues or needed services for adoptive parents? (Q183)	232	100%	60	26%	66	28%	106	46%

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
ADOPTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Adoption Task Force has been established by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to review adoption laws and practices and to make recommendations for changes in law, policy and practice. We are requesting your assistance by providing information about your experience with adoption and would appreciate your completing the following questionnaire.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- A. At what age were you adopted? _____
 B. What year were you adopted? _____
 C. What year were you born? _____
 D. Do you belong to an adoption-related organization? Yes () No ()
 If so, name organization _____

The questionnaire is comprised of yes/no answers. The yes/no columns are to ascertain what services were provided to you. The last column requests your opinion whether these services should be provided. A checkmark here would indicate that you feel that the service or information should be provided.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. <u>YOUR ADOPTION</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Should Have Been Provided</u>
1. Were you adopted				
a. Through an agency: If so, which one _____	()	()	()	
b. Privately:	()	()	()	
. through a doctor	()	()	()	
. through a lawyer	()	()	()	
. through a relative	()	()	()	
. through a friend of family	()	()	()	
Other, specify _____	()	()	()	
2. Did any part of the adoption process take place in Maine?	()	()	()	
3. If so, which part?				
a. Were you born in Maine?	()	()	()	
b. Did you live in Maine? before being placed for adoption?	()	()	()	
c. Did the adoptive family live in Maine?	()	()	()	
d. Did a Maine court handle the adoption?	()	()	()	
4. Were you represented by a lawyer during the adoption proceeding?	()	()	()	()
 B. <u>AFTER YOU WERE ADOPTED</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>If Re-quested, was the Service Provided</u>
1. Have you ever returned to the agency/person through whom you were adopted?	()	()	()	()
2. If so, what service did you request:				
a. Information about the current well-being of your birth family?	()	()	()	()
If so, which, your birth mother	()	()	()	()
your birth father	()	()	()	()
brothers and sisters	()	()	()	()
grandparents	()	()	()	()
others (specify) _____	()	()	()	()

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>If Re- quested, was the Service Provided</u>
b. Any other information about your birth family?	()	()	()	()
c. That the agency/person assist you in locating your birth family?	()	()	()	()
d. That the agency/person pass on information to your birth family?	()	()	()	()
e. That the agency/person place updated information in your file?	()	()	()	()
f. Counseling?	()	()	()	()
g. Assistance with problems?	()	()	()	()
h. Other (specify) _____	()	()	()	()
3. Were you satisfied with the agency's/person's response?	()	()	()	()
4. Have you received services from another source related to adoption? If so, specify _____	()	()	()	()

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Have Used Their Service</u>
5. Are you aware of the following agencies or support groups which assist persons affected by adoption:				
a. Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)?	()	()	()	()
b. Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	()	()	()	()
c. Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry?	()	()	()	()
d. Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)?	()	()	()	()
e. National groups?	()	()	()	()
f. Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Is it Available To You</u>
6. If you want to search for your birth family, do you need:				
a. Emotional support?	()	()	()	()
b. Informational support?	()	()	()	()
c. Search support?	()	()	()	()
7. Do you want the following services:				
a. Access to a person/counselor sensitive to and familiar with adoption issues?	()	()	()	()

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>Is it Available To You</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| b. Access to other adoptees to discuss adoption issues? | () | () | () | () |
| 8. Do you have current unmet service needs related to adoption? | () | () | () | |
| 9. If so, do they include: | | | | |
| a. Medical/social information about your birth family? | () | () | () | |
| b. To provide/receive updated information to your birth family? | () | () | () | |
| c. Information about inheritance laws that affect you? | () | () | () | |
| d. Social/developmental information about your background? | () | () | () | |
| e. Information about periods of separation and attachment in your background? | () | () | () | |
| f. Counseling? | () | () | () | |
| g. Psychological/psychiatric services? | () | () | () | |
| h. Referral to a professional qualified to counsel on adoption issues? | () | () | () | |
| i. Other, specify _____ | () | () | () | |
| 9. Can you recommend any professionals who are especially qualified to counsel on adoption issues? | () | () | | |
| 10. If yes, would you please provide his or her name and address. | | | | |
| 11. Do you have any additional comments on adoption issues or needed services for adoptees? | | | | |

IF YOU WERE NOT ADOPTED AS AN INFANT, PLEASE COMPLETE THE REST OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

- | <u>C. BEFORE YOU WERE ADOPTED</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>Should Have Been Provided</u> |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Were you given information about options other than adoption? | () | () | () | () |

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Should Have Been Provided</u>
2. If so, did they include:				
. custody to another person such as a relative	()	()	()	()
. foster care	()	()	()	()
3. Were you given explanation of:				
a. The adoption procedure?	()	()	()	()
b. The legal process?	()	()	()	()
c. The homestudy of your adoptive parents?	()	()	()	()
d. The legal forms?	()	()	()	()
4. Were you given an opportunity to read any legal forms you signed?	()	()	()	()
5. Were you given an opportunity to assist in selecting the family who would adopt you?	()	()	()	()
6. If so, did it include:				
a. Information about the family?	()	()	()	()
b. Ability to select from descriptions of several families?	()	()	()	()
c. Meeting the adoptive families?	()	()	()	()
7. Were you provided with the following?				
a. Medical history for you and your birth family?	()	()	()	()
b. Social history for you and your birth family?	()	()	()	()
c. Your birth family's personal and physical characteristics?	()	()	()	()
8. Did anyone talk with you about grief, separation and loss issues related to your adoption?	()	()	()	()

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Would you be willing to be contacted to take part in any future adoption-related projects?

If yes, please fill in the following:

NAME:

TEL:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

Thank you very much for participating in this questionnaire.

**ADOPTION TASK FORCE
BIRTHPARENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Adoption Task Force has been established by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to review adoption laws and practices and to make recommendations for changes in law, policy and practice. We are requesting your assistance by providing information about your experience with adoption and would appreciate your completing the following questionnaire.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- A. Your age at child's birth: _____ years
 B. Year of child's birth: 19_____
 C. Were you: married ☐ divorced ☐ separated ☐ single ☐
 D. Do you belong to an adoption-related organization? Yes ☐ No ☐
 Name of organization: _____

The following questionnaire is comprised of yes/no answers. The yes/no column is to find out what services were provided to you. A checkmark in the third column indicates that you don't know. The last column asks your opinion whether these services should be provided. If you place a checkmark in the last column, you are indicating that you think the service or information should be provided.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

<u>A. THE ADOPTION</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Should Have Been Provided</u>
1. Did any part of the adoption process take place in Maine?	()	()		
2. If so, which part?				
a. Was your child born in Maine?	()	()	()	
b. Did your child live in Maine before being placed for adoption?	()	()	()	
c. Did the adoptive family live in Maine?	()	()	()	
d. Did a Maine court handle the adoption?	()	()	()	
3. Was your child placed:				
a. Through an agency?	()	()	()	
If yes, which one _____				
If yes, who referred you to this agency? _____				
b. Privately:				
. through a doctor?	()	()	()	
. through a lawyer?	()	()	()	
. through a relative?	()	()	()	
. through a friend of family	()	()	()	
. Other, specify _____	()	()	()	
4. Did s/he represent:				
a. You	()	()	()	
b. The adoptive parents	()	()	()	
c. An agency	()	()	()	
5. What was the legal basis for the adoption?				
a. Consent	()	()	()	
b. Surrender and release	()	()	()	
c. Voluntary termination of parental rights	()	()	()	
d. Involuntary termination of parental rights	()	()	()	
e. I signed a paper, but I don't know what it was	()	()	()	

B. <u>BEFORE YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED FOR ADOPTION:</u>	Yes	No	Don't Know	Should Have Been Provided
1. Were you given information about options other than adoption?	()	()	()	()
2. If so, did they include:				
a. Keeping and raising your child	()	()	()	()
b. Abortion	()	()	()	()
c. Custody or guardianship to another person, such as a relative	()	()	()	()
d. Temporary foster care	()	()	()	()
3. Were the following explained to you?				
a. The adoption procedure?	()	()	()	()
b. The legal process?	()	()	()	()
c. The homestudy of the adoptive parents?	()	()	()	()
d. The legal forms?	()	()	()	()
4. Were you given the opportunity to read the legal forms you signed?	()	()	()	()
5. Were you given an opportunity to assist in selecting the family who would adopt your child?	()	()	()	()
6. If so, did it include:				
. Information about the family?	()	()	()	()
. Ability to select from descriptions of several families?	()	()	()	()
. Meeting the adoptive families?	()	()	()	()
7. Did you provide the following:				
a. Your medical history?	()	()	()	()
b. Your social history?	()	()	()	()
c. Your family's personal and physical characteristics?	()	()	()	()
8. Were you provided counseling on grief separation and loss issues?	()	()	()	()
9. Were any of your family members also provided counseling?	()	()	()	()
10. Were you provided information about whether your child would have the right to inherit from you?	()	()	()	()
11. Were you given an explanation about confidentiality of adoption records?	()	()	()	()
12. Were you given financial support for:				
a. Living expenses while pregnant?	()	()	()	()
b. Maternity clothing?	()	()	()	()
c. Medical expenses while pregnant?	()	()	()	()
d. Doctors charge for delivery?	()	()	()	()
e. Hospital costs?	()	()	()	()
f. Follow up medical costs after the birth of the baby?	()	()	()	()
g. Dental care?	()	()	()	()
h. Eye care?	()	()	()	()
i. Special housing during pregnancy?	()	()	()	()
j. Counseling during pregnancy?	()	()	()	()
k. Counseling after the birth of the baby?	()	()	()	()
l. Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()

C. <u>AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS ADOPTED:</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>If Re- quested, was the Service Provided?</u>
1.	Have you ever returned to the agency/ person through whom your child was placed for adoption?	()	()		
2.	If so, what service did you request:				
	a. Reassurance about your decision to have your child adopted?	()	()	()	()
	b. Information about the well-being of your child?	()	()	()	()
	c. Information about your child?	()	()	()	()
	d. That the agency/person assist you in locating your child?	()	()	()	()
	e. That the agency/person pass on information to your child and/or his or her adoptive family?	()	()	()	()
	f. That the agency/person place updated information in your file?	()	()	()	()
	g. Counseling?	()	()	()	()
	h. Assistance with problems?	()	()	()	()
	i. Other (specify) _____	()	()	()	()
3.	Were you satisfied with the agency's/ person's response?	()	()	()	()
4.	Have you received services from another source related to adoption? If so, specify _____	()	()	()	()

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Have Used Their Service</u>
5. Are you aware of the following agencies or support groups which assist persons affected by adoption:				
a. Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)?	()	()	()	()
b. Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	()	()	()	()
c. Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry?	()	()	()	()
d. Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)?	()	()	()	()
e. National groups?	()	()	()	()
f. Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Is it Available To You</u>
6. If you want to search for your child, do you need:				
a. Emotional support?	()	()	()	()
b. Informational support?	()	()	()	()
c. Search support?	()	()	()	()
7. Do you want the following services:				
a. Access to a person/counselor sensitive to and familiar with adoption issues?	()	()	()	()
b. Access to other birth parents to discuss adoption issues?	()	()	()	()

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 8. Do you have current unmet service needs related to adoption? | () | () | () |
| 9. If so, do they include: | | | |
| a. Medical/social information about your child? | () | () | () |
| b. To provide/receive updated information to my adopted child and/or his or her adoptive parents? | () | () | () |
| c. Information about inheritance laws that affect you? | () | () | () |
| d. Counseling? | () | () | () |
| e. Psychological/psychiatric services? | () | () | () |
| f. Referral to a professional qualified to counsel on adoption issues? | () | () | () |
| g. Other, specify _____ | | | |
| _____ | | | |
| _____ | | | |
| 10. Can you recommend any professionals who are especially qualified to counsel on adoption issues? | () | () | () |
| 11. If yes, would you please provide his or her name and address. | | | |
| 12. Do you have any additional comments on adoption issues or needed services for birth parents? | | | |

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Would you be willing to be contacted to take part in any future adoption-related projects?

If yes, please fill in the following:

NAME:

TEL:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

Thank you very much for participating in this questionnaire.

**ADOPTION TASK FORCE
ADOPTIVE PARENTS QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Adoption Task Force has been established by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to review adoption laws and practices and to make recommendations for changes in law, policy and practice. We are requesting your assistance by providing information about your experience with adoption and would appreciate your completing the following questionnaire.

The following questionnaire is comprised largely of yes/no answers. The yes/no column is to ascertain what services are already provided. The third column indicates that you don't know. If you place a checkmark in the last column you are indicating that you think the service or information should be provided.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

A. How many children did you adopt?

Boys _____ Girls _____

	Number of Children Adopted	If yes, through what agency or person?	Year
B. Did you adopt:			
1. Infant birth to age one year	_____	_____	_____
2. Young child 1 to 5	_____	_____	_____
3. Older child 5 to 18	_____	_____	_____
4. Sibling group	_____	_____	_____
5. Physically handicapped	_____	_____	_____
6. Mentally/emotionally handicapped	_____	_____	_____
7. Mixed race	_____	_____	_____
8. Child from another country	_____	_____	_____
9. Other, specify _____	_____	_____	_____

	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3	Child 4
C. Did any part of the adoption process take place in Maine? If yes, check under the child to whom yes applies.	()	()	()	()
D. If so, which part?				
1. Was your child born in Maine?	()	()	()	()
2. Did your child live in Maine before being placed for adoption?	()	()	()	()
3. Did you live in Maine during the adoption process?	()	()	()	()
4. Did a Maine court handle the adoption?	()	()	()	()

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. THE ADOPTION

1. Was your child placed:

a. Through an agency? If yes, which one? _____ If yes, who referred to this agency? _____	()	()	()	()
b. Privately:				
. through a doctor	()	()	()	()
. through a lawyer	()	()	()	()
. through a relative	()	()	()	()
. through a friend of family	()	()	()	()
Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()

B. BEFORE YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED WITH YOU:	Yes	No	Don't Know	Should Have Been Provided
1. Were you provided counseling regarding infertility issues? If so, by whom? _____	()	()	()	()
2. Were you referred to:				
. RESOLVE (infertility support organization)	()	()	()	()
. Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()
3. Were you provided with:				
a. Social/medical history of the child?	()	()	()	()
b. Developmental needs of the age of the child adopted?	()	()	()	()
c. Need of the adopted child to be informed about his or her biological family?	()	()	()	()
d. The possible need for and desire of the adopted child to search for and have a reunion with his or her biological family?	()	()	()	()
4. Were you provided with specific needs of the particular child adopted:				
a. Behaviors to watch for/expect?	()	()	()	()
b. Sexuality issues	()	()	()	()
c. Religious practices	()	()	()	()
d. Ethnic/cultural issues	()	()	()	()
e. Racial issues	()	()	()	()
f. Loss/separation issues	()	()	()	()
g. Educational	()	()	()	()
h. Psychological	()	()	()	()
i. Special abilities/talents	()	()	()	()
j. Methods of discipline	()	()	()	()
k. Likes and dislikes	()	()	()	()
l. Food and contact allergies	()	()	()	()
5. Were you provided:				
a. Information about inheritance laws affecting you and your adopted child/ren?	()	()	()	()
b. Explanation about confidentiality of adoption records?	()	()	()	()
c. Information about available financial assistance for special needs children (subsidy)?	()	()	()	()
d. Information about available support groups which assist persons affected by adoption? If yes, which ones?	()	()	()	()
(1) Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)?	()	()	()	()
(2) Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	()	()	()	()
(3) Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry?	()	()	()	()
(4) Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)?	()	()	()	()
(5) National groups?	()	()	()	()
(6) Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()

C. AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS PLACED WITH YOU
AND BEFORE ADOPTION FINALIZATION:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Should be Provided</u>
1. Were you provided by the agency/ person assisting you with supervisory visits?	()	()	()	()
a. If yes, how many? _____				
b. If yes, how frequently? _____				
2. Were you given a letter from the birth parents to their child? How long after child's birth? _____	()	()	()	()
3. Did you write to the birth parents giving them news about their child? If yes, how soon after placement? _____	()	()	()	()
4. Is there any ongoing communication between you and your child's birth parents?	()	()	()	()
5. Were you provided with				
a. Photographs of child? At what age(s)? _____	()	()	()	()
b. Your child's birth certificate. If yes, was it the original birth certificate?	()	()	()	()
c. Non-identifying background information on your child's biological family?	()	()	()	()
d. Identifying background informa- tion on your child's biological family? If so, was it in writing?	()	()	()	()
e. Gift from birth parents to your child?	()	()	()	()
f. Medical/genetic history on your child? If so, was it in writing?	()	()	()	()
g. Cultural/ethnic background on your child?	()	()	()	()
h. Racial background of your child?	()	()	()	()
i. Counseling?	()	()	()	()
j. Parenting training?	()	()	()	()
k. Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()
2. Were you satisfied with the agency/ person's services?	()	()	()	()
3. Did you seek the services of any other source during this time?	()	()	()	()
4. Did you participate in a "legal risk" placement? If yes, specify _____	()	()	()	()

D. WHEN YOUR CHILD'S ADOPTION WAS LEGALLY
FINALIZED:

1. Were you represented by an attorney?	()	()	()	()
2. If so, did s/he represent:				
a. You	()	()	()	
b. The biological parents	()	()	()	
c. The agency, if any	()	()	()	

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Should be Provided</u>
3. What was the legal basis for the adoption?				
a. Consent	()	()	()	
b. Surrender and release	()	()	()	
c. Voluntary termination of parental rights	()	()	()	
d. Involuntary termination of parental rights	()	()	()	
4. Were you provided with any legal documents? If yes, which ones? _____	()	()	()	()
5. Was there any counseling provided during the adoption finalization process?	()	()	()	()
E. <u>AFTER YOUR CHILD WAS ADOPTED:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>If Requested was the Service Provided</u>
1. Have you ever returned to the agency/person through whom your child was placed for adoption?	()	()	()	()
2. If yes, what service did you request:				
a. Reassurance about your decision to adopt?	()	()	()	()
b. Information about the well-being of your child's birth parents?	()	()	()	()
c. Information about your child's birth parents?	()	()	()	()
d. Information about your child's previous foster families?	()	()	()	()
e. Information about your child's siblings?	()	()	()	()
f. Information about your child's biological grandparents?	()	()	()	()
g. That the agency/person assist you in locating your child's biological family member?				
Birth mother	()	()	()	()
Birth father	()	()	()	()
Sibling	()	()	()	()
Half-sibling	()	()	()	()
Grandparents	()	()	()	()
Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()
h. That the agency/person pass on information to his/her birth family member or foster family?	()	()	()	()
If yes, specify to whom? _____				
If yes, specify type of information passed on:				
i.e., Medical	()	()	()	()
Social	()	()	()	()
Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()
1. That the agency/person place updated information in your file?	()	()	()	()
j. Counseling?	()	()	()	()

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>If Requested was the Service Provided</u>
k. How to cope with your child's behavior?	()	()	()	()
l. How to develop new parenting skills?	()	()	()	()
m. How to help your child develop trust in relationships?	()	()	()	()
n. How to work with school systems?	()	()	()	()
o. How to find financial aid for your child's special needs?	()	()	()	()
p. How to cope with adoption dissolution (disruption)?	()	()	()	()
q. How to cope with cultural differences?	()	()	()	()
r. Assistance with problems?	()	()	()	()
s. Other, specify _____	()	()	()	()
3. Were you satisfied with the agency/person's response?	()	()	()	()
4. Have you received services from another source related to adoption? If yes, specify _____	()	()	()	()
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Have Used Their Service</u>
5. Are you aware of the following agencies or support groups which assist persons affected by adoption?				
a. Concerned United Birthparents (CUB)?	()	()	()	()
b. Adoption Search Consultants of Maine (ASC ME)?	()	()	()	()
c. Maine State Adoption Reunion Registry?	()	()	()	()
d. RESOLVE?	()	()	()	()
e. Adoptive Families of Maine (AFM)?	()	()	()	()
f. National groups?	()	()	()	()
g. Other support groups Specify _____	()	()	()	()
6. Do you have current unmet service needs related to adoption?				
7. If so, do they include:				
a. Medical information about your child's biological background?	()	()	()	
b. Social/developmental information about the child's background?	()	()	()	
c. Information about periods of separation and attachment in your child's background?	()	()	()	
d. To provide/receive updated information to my adopted child's biological family and/or foster family?	()	()	()	
e. A support group for adoptive parents?	()	()	()	
f. Professional services of a qualified individual(s) who is trained to counsel on adoption issues?	()	()	()	

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| g. Counseling? | () | () | () |
| h. Psychological or psychiatric services? | () | () | () |
| i. Information about my adopted child's legal inheritance rights? | () | () | () |
| j. Other, specify _____ | () | () | () |
| _____ | | | |
| _____ | | | |
| 8. Can you recommend any professionals who are especially qualified to counsel on adoption issues? | () | () | |
| 9. If yes, would you please provide his or her name and address: | | | |
| _____ | | | |
| _____ | | | |
| _____ | | | |
| 10. Do you have any additional comments on adoption issues or needed services for adoptive parents? | () | () | |

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Would you be willing to be contacted to take part in any future adoption-related projects?

If yes, please fill in the following:

NAME:

TEL:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

Thank you very much for participating in this questionnaire.

APPENDIX B

ADOPTION TASK FORCE
OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete only one Opinion Questionnaire. Thank you.

The following is a questionnaire designed to determine your opinions about certain issues related to adoption. This is information that the Task Force on Adoption needs to make its' recommendations for changes in law, policy, and procedures. Please answer as completely as possible and feel free to add extra comments on a separate piece of paper. Thank you.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

A. Are you an: (Check all that apply)

- Adoptee ☐
 Adoptive parent ☐
 Birth parent ☐
 Adoption agency person ☐
 Other ☐ specify _____

B. How old are you? _____ years old

C. Check only one: Male ☐
 Female ☐

D. Current marital status (check only one):

- Married couple ☐
 Unmarried couple ☐
 Divorced ☐
 Separated ☐
 Single ☐
 Other ☐ specify _____

E. Education: indicate highest grade completed: _____

F. Which best describes your place of residence (check only one)?

- Urban ☐
 Suburban ☐
 Rural ☐

G. What is your current occupation? _____

H. What years were you involved in key points in the adoption process?

	Year began	Number of years in the process
Surrender/consent for adoption of a child	_____	_____
Being adopted yourself	_____	_____
Adopting a child	_____	_____
Searching/found	_____	_____
Working toward adoption reform	_____	_____
Working for an adoption agency	_____	_____
Receiving counseling related to adoption issues	_____	_____
Providing support to someone involved with adoption issues	_____	_____
Other, specify _____	_____	_____

I. Did you search or were you found? (check all that apply)

	Yes	No
1. Searched and found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was it a good experience?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Was found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was it a good experience?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Searching, have not found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Am not searching and do not plan to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Am not searching but may in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Am not searching but willing to be found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do not want to search	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do not want to be found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OPTIONAL:

Name _____

Address _____

II. OPINIONS

1. Who should be allowed to adopt?

	Yes	No	No Opinion
A married couple	()	()	()
A single woman	()	()	()
A single man	()	()	()
An unmarried couple	()	()	()
A gay/lesbian couple	()	()	()
A gay/lesbian person	()	()	()
People who already have children	()	()	()
People who have given up a child for adoption	()	()	()
People who have a history of mental illness	()	()	()
Physically/medically handicapped person	()	()	()

2. Should anyone be allowed to adopt the following?

A child of a different race	()	()	()
A child from a different country	()	()	()
A child of a different religion	()	()	()
An unlimited number of children	()	()	()
A child from another state	()	()	()

3. Do you support the following?

a. Agency adoption	()	()	()
b. Independent or private adoption	()	()	()
c. "Open adoption" (meet, know names)	()	()	()
d. "Open records" (court records open)	()	()	()

4. Should letters, pictures, etc., be exchanged?

a. Directly	()	()	()
b. Through intermediaries	()	()	()
c. Not exchanged at all	()	()	()

5. Should anyone search for an unknown party to the adoption?

()	()	()
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6. Who should have the right to privacy in the adoption process?

Adoptees	()	()	()
Birth parents	()	()	()
Adoptive process	()	()	()

7. Should adopted children be told that they are adopted?

()	()	()
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If yes, at what age should an adoptee have access to his records?

a. Any age	()
b. 18 years	()
c. 21 years	()
d. Never	()
e. Don't know	()

8. What information should the following persons be able to obtain about other parties in the adoption process?

	Adoptees	Birth Parents	Adoptive Parents
None	()	()	()
Medical/genetic information	()	()	()
Social history	()	()	()
Full disclosure of information including names and addresses	()	()	()

9. If a system was devised to provide information through a third party, without revealing identities, would you provide/accept:

	Yes	No	No Opinion
a. Up-to-date medical information	()	()	()
b. Pictures, letters, etc.	()	()	()
c. Social updates: births, marriages, etc.	()	()	()
d. Other _____	()	()	()

10. If, despite everything, you were contacted by the other party(s) would you: (Check all that apply)

a. Be angry or upset?	()	()	()
b. Be neutral?	()	()	()
c. Be happy and relieved?	()	()	()

11. Which of the following describe your feelings about search/reunion:
(Check all that apply)
- a. Have reservations about it ()
 - b. Discourage it ()
 - c. Refuse to even consider it ()
 - d. Don't want to even think about it ()
 - e. It depends what my child wants/needs ()
 - f. Generally positive ()
 - g. Generally negative ()

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>		<u>No Opinion</u>		<u>Strongly Disagree</u>
1. There are good reasons for giving up a child for adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
2. I would recommend that a relative give up a child for adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
3. I would consider giving up a child for adoption myself.	()	()	()	()	()
4. Unmarried pregnant teens should be encouraged to give up a child for adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
5. Abortion is a more desirable option than adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
6. There should be age limits on who can adopt children over 3 years old.	()	()	()	()	()
7. Unmarried pregnant teens should be encouraged to keep their children.	()	()	()	()	()
8. Unmarried persons considering either adoption, abortion or keeping their children should be presented with information about all the other options.	()	()	()	()	()
9. An unmarried adult pregnant woman should be encouraged to give up a child for adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
10. Unmarried pregnant teenagers should be required to give up their children for adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
11. People who give up their children for adoption do so because they don't love their child.	()	()	()	()	()
12. An adoptive parent has the responsibility to provide significant information to the birth parent related to the needs of the child.	()	()	()	()	()
13. Persons giving up a child for adoption should have expenses paid by adoptive families.	()	()	()	()	()
14. Persons giving up a child for adoption should be able to receive money and benefits above the cost of their expenses.	()	()	()	()	()
15. People should be able to sell their child for adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
16. Gay/lesbian persons should only be able to adopt gay/lesbian children.	()	()	()	()	()
17. There should be age limits on who can adopt infants.	()	()	()	()	()
18. Adoption is a more desirable option than abortion.	()	()	()	()	()
19. An adoptee has the responsibility to provide significant information to the birth parents.	()	()	()	()	()
20. Birth parents should be offered or given a subsidy to enable them to keep their children.	()	()	()	()	()
21. People who give up their children for adoption do so out of love for their children.	()	()	()	()	()
22. Persons should be allowed to adopt a child even if they are not able to financially care for the child.	()	()	()	()	()
23. It should be possible to place a child for adoption before the child is legally free for adoption.	()	()	()	()	()

For each of the following statements, please indicate whether you agree or disagree or have no opinion.

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>		<u>No</u> <u>Opinion</u>		<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>
24. Birth parents should have a period of time to change their mind after consenting to adopt.	()	()	()	()	()
25. Adopted children are more inclined to develop psychological/emotional problems during adolescence than non-adopted children.	()	()	()	()	()
26. A minor birth parent should not be allowed to surrender a child for adoption unless he or she has legal counsel.	()	()	()	()	()
27. Adoption is a lifelong process.	()	()	()	()	()
28. Brothers and sisters placed for adoption should always be placed together.	()	()	()	()	()
29. Adoption caseworkers are adequately trained.	()	()	()	()	()
30. Adoptees should be able to have contact with brothers and sisters not living with them.	()	()	()	()	()
31. Doctors, lawyers, and other professionals should be able to place children for adoption without a license to do adoptive placements.	()	()	()	()	()
32. Birth parents who give up their child for adoption should have no say about the adoptive home the child goes to.	()	()	()	()	()
33. An adoption certificate should be issued instead of a revised birth certificate when a child is adopted.	()	()	()	()	()
34. A potential adoptive home and family should be evaluated by a qualified person before a child is placed.	()	()	()	()	()
35. All adoptions should go through a public or private adoption agency.	()	()	()	()	()
36. Maine children should be adopted only by Maine residents.	()	()	()	()	()
37. Birth parents should be able to visit their child after adoption.	()	()	()	()	()
38. Adoptees should be able to visit their birth parents after adoption	()	()	()	()	()
39. A birth parent has the responsibility to provide significant information to his/her adopted child.	()	()	()	()	()
40. Persons should be offered or given a subsidy to enable them to adopt a child who has special needs.	()	()	()	()	()
41. There should be age limits on who can adopt children with handicaps or special needs.	()	()	()	()	()
42. It is good for adoptees and birth parents to be reunited.	()	()	()	()	()
43. An adoptee has a right to learn about his/her birth parents, even if the birth parents wish privacy.	()	()	()	()	()
44. The right of an adoptee to learn is more important than a birth parent's right to privacy/secretcy.	()	()	()	()	()
45. An adult adoptee has a right to learn about his/her birthparents, even if the adoptive parents object.	()	()	()	()	()
46. An adoptive parent has a right to learn about his child's birth parents even if the birth parent wishes privacy.	()	()	()	()	()
47. An unmarried father should be able to prevent adoption of his child.	()	()	()	()	()
48. An adoptive parent should support/aid the adoptee's search.	()	()	()	()	()
49. It is good when a birth parent is found	()	()	()	()	()