

**Report to the Utah State Legislature  
Health and Human Services Interim Committee**

**2018 Annual Report  
on the Effectiveness of the Utah Mutual  
Consent, Voluntary Adoption Registry**

**Prepared by the Utah Department of Health  
Office of Vital Records and Statistics**

**October 10, 2018**



## INTRODUCTION

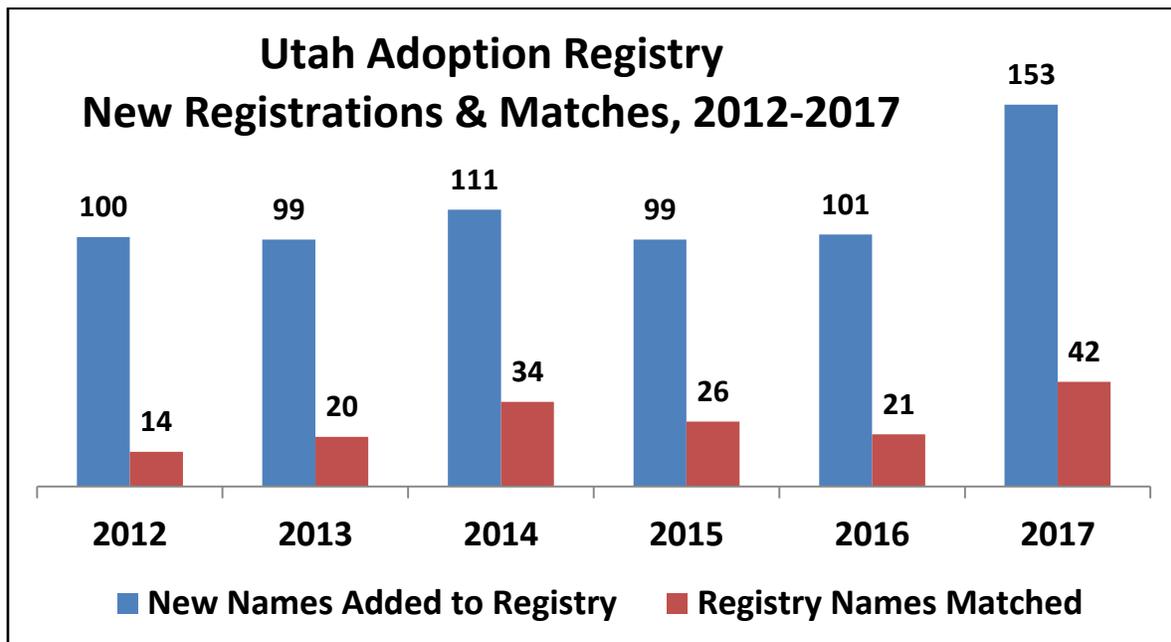
The Utah Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics (OVRs) is pleased to submit this annual report on the effectiveness of the Utah Mutual Consent, Voluntary Adoption Registry as required under Utah Code 78B-6-144 (5). This report highlights the registry's background, effectiveness, and future plans.

## REGISTRY BACKGROUND

Utah's Mutual Consent, Voluntary Adoption Registry exists to help adult adoptees, birth parents, and biological siblings locate one another without using the court system or spending excessive amounts of time and money. Participation in the registry is not mandatory and an adult adoptee and/or birth relative may refuse participation in the registry. A registry match occurs when an adult adoptee born in Utah and his or her birth parent or an adoptee's biological sibling voluntarily register their name with the registry. Since its inception in 1987, the registry has helped over 500 individuals reunite with members of their birth family. More information about the Utah Adoption Registry can be found at <https://adoptionregistry.utah.gov/>.

## REGISTRY EFFECTIVENESS

OVRs uses two performance measures to show the effectiveness of the Adoption Registry: the number of new names added to the registry and the number of new registry names matched with a birth family member. The table below reports performance between 2012 and 2017 in regard to both measures.



As demonstrated in the table above, the number of new registrations and new matches dramatically increased between 2016 and 2017. The increase was due to enabling the public to begin the registration process online beginning in August 2016. So far in 2018, there have been 132 new registrations and 44 new matches so the registry is on track to surpass the 2017 registration and match levels. Now more than ever, individuals are choosing to use Utah's Adoption Registry to reunite with a birth child, birth parent, or birth sibling.

## **2018 ACTIVITIES**

OVRs has contracted with EKR, an advertising and marketing company based in Provo, UT, to help implement a public education campaign for the adoption registry. The purpose of the campaign is to educate the public about the adoption registry and how it helps adoptees and their biological families find one another. The campaign rolled out in June 2018 and it will continue throughout the year.

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*For more information about Utah's Mutual Consent, Voluntary Adoption Registry, please contact Richard J. Oborn, MPA, State Registrar and Bureau Director at the Utah Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, at (801) 538-6262 or [roborn@utah.gov](mailto:roborn@utah.gov).*

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