

INFORMATION REGARDING ADOPTION SEARCH REQUESTS

The Erie County Court of Common Pleas Family/Orphans' Division has established procedures to handle adoption search requests. If you wish to initiate a search for birth parent(s) or an adoptee, you must complete the appropriate attached **PETITION FOR RELEASE OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION** (for either Adoptee or Birth Parent) and forward it to the Register of Wills Office, Erie County Courthouse, 140 West Sixth Street, Erie, PA 16501, together with a check for \$200.00 made payable to "Clerk of Records".

Birth parent(s) may search for an adoptee, provided the adoptee is 21 years of age or older. An adoptee may search for his/her birth parent(s), provided the adoptee is 18 years of age or older. Please note that if the birth parents or the adoptee do not consent to the release of their identity, only available non-identifying information (e.g., nationality, religion, etc.) may be released.

If you wish to receive *only* non-identifying information, please fill out the attached **PETITION FOR RELEASE OF LIMITED NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION** and forward it to the Register of Wills Office, Erie County Courthouse, 140 West Sixth Street, Erie, PA 16501.

**PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF CONFIDENTIALITY
PREVENT THE COURT FROM DOING ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHAT HAS
ALREADY BEEN STATED.**