

## Collecting the Birth Family Medical and Social History

The Child Protection Worker must complete the Birth Family Medical and Social History within 30 days of the decision for the child to be placed in Permanent Custody.

### REFERENCE

*Department of Health and Social Services policy*

### PURPOSE

- To ensure that medical information is available to both adoptive parents and child or youth.
- To assist in the selection of an adoptive family.
- To assist a prospective adoptive parent(s) to decide whether he or she can parent the child or youth and whether or not to proceed with the placement.
- To assist the adoptive parent(s) in providing information to their adopted child about his or her birth family.
- To provide information on the birth family to an adoptive person who has attained the age of majority.

### PROCEDURES

1. Consult with the birth family to collect their medical and social history using the *Birth Family Medical and Social History form*, including a description of the birth parent(s), their health and social histories and if applicable, the reasons why the birth parent(s) decided to make an adoption plan. Where possible, include photographs of family and extended family, including siblings and parents.
2. Seek information from a variety of sources, including the:
  - child or youth's file;
  - child or youth, if possible;
  - birth parent(s);
  - extended family, medical practitioners and/or other professionals; and
  - child or youth's foster parent.

3. Forward the completed *Birth Family Medical and Social History form* to the Supervisor for review and signature.
4. Place a copy of the *Birth Family Medical and Social History form* on the child or youth's file and forward a copy to the Adoptions Practice Specialist/Registrar at the Department of Health and Social Services.

#### **FORMS**

- Birth Family Medical and Social History

#### **TOOLS**

- Birth Family Medical and Social History Guide