

CHAPTER 14-15
REVISED UNIFORM ADOPTION ACT

*through physical or
verbal communication
or contact*

14-15-01. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Abandon" means:
 - a. As to a parent of a child not in the custody of that parent, failure by the noncustodial parent significantly without justifiable cause to:
 - (1) Communicate with the child; or
 - (2) Provide for the care and support of the child as required by law.
 - b. As to a parent of a child in that parent's custody:
 - (1) To leave the child for an indefinite period without making firm and agreed plans, with the child's immediate caregiver, for the parent's resumption of physical custody;
 - (2) Following the child's birth or treatment at a hospital, to fail to arrange for the child's discharge within ten days after the child no longer requires hospital care; or
 - (3) To willfully fail to furnish food, shelter, clothing, or medical attention reasonably sufficient to meet the child's needs.
2. "Adult" means an individual who is not a minor.
3. "Agency" means an entity licensed under chapter 50-12 to place minors for adoption.
4. "Child" means a son or daughter, whether by birth or adoption.
5. "Court" means the district court of this state, and when the context requires means the court of any other state empowered to grant petitions for adoption.
6. "Department" means the department of human services.
7. "Genetic parent" means the biological mother or adjudicated mother of the adopted child, or the presumed father or adjudicated father of the adopted child under chapter 14-20.
8. "Genetic sibling" means individuals with genetic relationship of sister, brother, half-sister, or half-brother.
9. "Human service zone" means a county or consolidated group of counties administering human services within a designated area in accordance with an agreement or plan approved by the department.
10. "Identifying" includes full name, address, date of birth, telephone number, or anything that may lead to the identity of any previously undisclosed individual.
11. "Investigation" includes information obtained regarding the child's history, a preplacement adoption assessment of the prospective adoptive family, and an evaluation of the child's placement in the adoptive home.
12. "Minor" means an individual under the age of eighteen years.
13. "Nonidentifying adoptive information" means:
 - a. Age of genetic parent in years at the birth of the adopted child.
 - b. Heritage of genetic parent.
 - c. Educational attainments, including the number of years of school completed by genetic parent at the time of birth of the adopted child.
 - d. General physical appearance of genetic parent at the time of birth of the adopted child, including the height, weight, color of hair, eyes, skin, and other information of a similar nature.
 - e. Talents, hobbies, and special interests of genetic parents.
 - f. Existence of any other children born to either genetic parent.
 - g. Reasons for child being placed for adoption or for termination of parental right.
 - h. Religion of genetic parent.
 - i. Vocation of genetic parent in general terms.
 - j. Health history of genetic parents and blood relatives in a manner prescribed by the department.
 - k. Such further information which, in the judgment of the agency, will not be detrimental to the adoptive parent or the adopted individual requesting the