

養子縁組の出自を知る権利および検索・再会・交流
をめぐる現状と課題

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Search and reunion in Japanese adoption

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Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides individuals with the right to know their origins. The article states, “The child shall have (omission), as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.” In consideration of children’s wellbeing, Japan tends to recommend that children be informed about the circumstances of their births (notification, telling) in adoption, foster, and gametes donation cases. However, no provision for laws, systems, and support is available for informing individuals of their origins or for searching and reuniting them with those to whom they are genetically linked. This paper discusses the current situation and methods individuals who underwent adoption used to search for and reunite with their birth parents and relatives or to help birth parents search for and reunite with their children and relations. The United Kingdom will be used as an example of the situation abroad. The present situation of a third-party reproduction case and a case with divorced parents will be used as examples of the search and reunion process for blood relations. Lastly, the following may contribute to future adoption issues in Japan: (1) the need to expand the information collection and disclosure system, (2) the need for third-party organizations that provide consultation support for the party, (3) the need for the assumption of relatives and people involved other than the parent and child, and (4) the need for the assumption of the possibility of birth parents’ search for and reunion with their children.