

# FAQ

frequently asked questions



## What is the NCRC (National Center for the Rights of the Child) ?



In accordance with Article 10-2 of the Child Protection Act, this institution supports the establishment of necessary policies for the full implementation of child policies and effective promotion of child protection-related projects, and conducts evaluations.



## What is the adoption information disclosure request?



This is a system to ensure the adoptee's right to know by providing background information about their adoption. You can request disclosure of information about your adoption through an adoption agency or the NCRC



## What are the necessary documents to take the test for Adoptees of Unknown Descent?



1. Submit a copy of your identity card, a copy of your adoption file and apply for issuance of a certificate confirming that you are an "Adoptee of unknown descent" to the NCRC.
2. Make an appointment at the diplomatic mission abroad.
3. Take the certificate issued by the NCRC and a copy of your identity card when you go to the DNA test.



## What is an "Adoptee of unknown descent"?



According to Article 11 of the "Law on Protection and Support of Missing Children, etc.", an adoptee is considered of unknown descent if there are no records of any known relatives at the time of entry into the orphanage; if there is no specific information about the birth parents in the adoption file, or if the birth parents or their relatives did not place the child for adoption directly.  
 ※ You are not eligible if your adoption was directly initiated by your birth parents/family.



## Where can I get more information?



You can find more information on the NCRC Internet Site.  
 Check out: <https://www.kadoption.or.kr>

# Participating Korean Embassies & Consulates (14countries)



| Nr.                       | Country         | Embassies & Consulates   | Number of Offices |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| 1                         | USA             | Embassy in USA, Consulate in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Houston and Honolulu, Consular Office in Anchorage and Dallas, Consulate Agency in Hagatna | 13                |
| 2                         | France          | Embassy in France  | 1                 |
| 3                         | Sweden          | Embassy in Sweden  | 1                 |
| 4                         | Denmark         | Embassy in Denmark   | 1                 |
| 5                         | Norway          | Embassy in Norway  | 1                 |
| 6                         | The Netherlands | Embassy in the Netherlands   | 1                 |
| 7                         | Belgium         | Embassy in Belgium   | 1                 |
| 8                         | Australia       | Embassy in Australia, Consulate General in Sydney and Melbourne  | 3                 |
| 9                         | Canada          | Embassy in Canada, Consulate General in Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto  | 4                 |
| 10                        | Germany         | Embassy in Germany, Consulate General in Frankfurt and Hamburg, Embassy Branch Office in Bonn  | 4                 |
| 11                        | Switzerland     | Embassy in Switzerland   | 1                 |
| 12                        | Luxembourg      | The Embassy in Belgium has jurisdiction over Luxembourg  | -                 |
| 13                        | Italy           | Embassy in Italy, Consulate General in Milan   | 2                 |
| 14                        | England         | Embassy in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  | 1                 |
| <b>Total 14 countries</b> |                 | <b>-</b>   | <b>34</b>         |

# Biological family search through DNA testing for adoptees of unknown descent



# What is the goal of the DNA Testing System?



This system aims at confirming one's paternity through the analysis of the genetic information of children with no known relatives in protective facilities or other institutions, and that of families with missing children, in order to find long-term missing children.



Since January 2020, and thanks to the collaboration of the relevant ministries, overseas adoptees of Korean origin who fall under the category of children with unknown descent are eligible to have their DNA collected and registered at local diplomatic missions without having to travel to Korea.

\* 14 countries of adoption, 34 diplomatic missions abroad

# Who can apply and how?



## Eligibility

Korean adoptees who can be considered Missing Children.

- Any adoptee who has no known relatives (of unknown descent) at the time of entry into an orphanage or adoption agency. (Article 11 of the Law on Protection and Assistance to Missing Children)

## Procedure

Request for disclosure of one's adoption information to an adoption agency or the NCRC

Check with the NCRC if you are eligible for DNA testing

Collect DNA data in one of the 34 diplomatic missions, in one of the 14 countries of adoption participating.

The collected sample is sent to the Korean National Police to be compared with the DNA information of missing persons' families.

## Inquiries

NCRC  
<https://www.kadoption.or.kr>  
[familysearch@ncrc.or.kr](mailto:familysearch@ncrc.or.kr)  
02-6454-8793, 8695, 8702



# More details about the procedure



The adoptee verifies their adoption background by making an "Adoption Disclosure Request" to an adoption agency or the NCRC



The adoptee applies for the DNA testing system through a diplomatic mission abroad to the NCRC and receives a "confirmation of their status as an adoptee of unknown descent"



The NCRC requests support for DNA testing of the adoptee to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Embassy Abroad)



The diplomatic mission abroad contacts the adoptee to confirm the appointment for the DNA test



The adoptee must bring the necessary documents when going to the diplomatic mission abroad to be able to take a DNA sample, which will be sent along with the documents to the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the National Korean Police.



After receiving the DNA samples and the necessary documents, the National Korean Police requests the analysis of the DNA sample at the National Forensic Medicine Service through the NCRC



If a DNA match is found, the National Korean Police will make a new sample request to the diplomatic mission abroad for a second confirmation. The diplomatic mission abroad will be responsible for conducting this DNA test.



When the National Forensic Medicine Service receives a final "positive" result, the National Korean Police will forward the test results to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the adoptee and then a meeting procedure can be engaged.

※ Even if there is no match at the time, the DNA samples are kept and will keep being compared; if there is a match found later on, contact will be made with the adoptee for further instructions.