

## Veto

There is provision for adopted adults to register a veto to prevent an intermediary agency from making contact to inform them of a birth relative enquiry.

There are two types of Vetoes:

### **An Absolute Veto:**

This prevents an intermediary agency making contact with the adopted person.

It is important to be aware that registering an absolute veto may not preclude an Appropriate Adoption Agency (AAA) contacting them in the future where it considers it is necessary to do so. For example, the AAA may consider that the adopted adult needs to be informed of a life-threatening medical condition or that it has come to the AAA notice that a birth relative has obtained identifying information and intends to make contact.

The AAA does have discretion to initiate contact with the adopted adult in such circumstances even if a veto is in place. A veto will however prevent any intermediary agency from making an approach as a result of a request from a birth relative covered by a veto.

### **A Qualified Veto:**

Is one that restricts the circumstances in which an intermediary agency can make an approach. The qualification of the veto may apply to the person asking for the approach to be made or the reason for the approach. Examples of qualification could be 'maternal relatives only' or 'siblings who were adopted by another family'; alternatively there may be a qualification about the nature of the request. The qualification may be that an approach should only be made if the reason is to pass on a legacy or if the person requesting contact is terminally ill.

### **Registration of Veto:**

Any veto can only be registered with the AAA. This is the Local Authority that placed the child for adoption, or in cases of private adoptions the Local Authority that was notified. The AAA must be satisfied that the adopted person fully understands the implications of registering a veto. Therefore when an enquiry about registering a veto has been received, where possible an appointment should be made to meet with the adopted adult. This will enable the adoption worker to confirm the adopted person's identity and also to help with consideration of some of the implications registering a veto might have for the adopted person.