

## WHAT IS A VETO?

### What is the difference between an absolute and a qualified veto?

Section 98 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 makes provision for the introduction of a veto

#### Who can register a veto?

A veto is a request, expressed in writing, that an adopted adult may make regarding contact from a birth relative

#### What constitutes a veto?

There are 2 types of veto

An ABSOLUTE veto- a request that no contact be made with the adopted adult either directly, or by an intermediary agency on behalf of any member of their birth family and under any circumstances.

A QUALIFIED veto- a request that no contact be made by a particular (named) member/s of the birth family

**Or**

Under certain circumstances- either directly or by an intermediary agency on their behalf.

A qualified veto allows contact from other members of the birth family and/or contact to be made in particular circumstances.

For example, an adopted adult may wish for contact from his/her birth siblings, but not from his/her birth parent, or may want contact only in exceptional circumstances, such as medical reasons.

A veto **IS** binding. It must be recorded in writing with the Appropriate Adoption Agency the AAA; the agency responsible for the placement and legal proceedings. If another agency such as the Local Authority /Council is the AAA, it will be the adopted adult's responsibility to apply to the relevant adoption agency. The veto remains in force for life, or until the adopted adult chooses to withdraw it or amend it.

The veto prevents the intermediary agency making any approach to the adopted adult, apart from any exceptional circumstances. For example, where information relating to the adopted adult's welfare needs to be passed on, or in serious medical circumstances.

As registering a veto is such a final step, the adoption agency must discuss the full implications with the adopted adult by way of a face to face meeting, before accepting the registration of a veto.

**Can a birth relative register a veto?**

A birth relative cannot register a veto. However, a birth relative can place a wish for “no contact” with the Adoption Contact register <https://www.gov.uk/adoption-records/the-adoption-contact-register>

An adopted adult can also register a wish for no contact with the Adoption Contact Register

A wish for “no contact” is not legally binding, but would be taken into account by any intermediary agency acting on behalf of an adopted adult or birth relative.