

Barnardos supports children whose well-being is under threat, by working with them, their families and communities and by campaigning for the rights of children. Barnardos was established in Ireland in 1962 and is Ireland's leading independent children's charity.

Barnardos has been providing information, advice and support to people separated from their families of origin through our Adoption Advice Service since 1977 and the Origins service builds on this expertise and experience to support other adults who are looking to trace their family.

Origins Information and Tracing Service

Barnardos' Origins Service helps people who grew up in Ireland's industrial schools to trace their family of origin. Experienced professional staff offer advice, support and mediation in your search for your family of origin.

Who can use this service?

If you spent all or part of your childhood in an Irish industrial school we can support you in finding out about your family of origin. We will provide you with help in tracing information about your parents, siblings or other relatives. This service is completely confidential and only staff directly involved in your case will have access to your details.

Where can I find this service?

Our service is available across Ireland and we have staff working in Dublin, Cork, and Galway. If you would like to use Barnardos' Origins Information and Tracing Service, one of our counsellors will meet or speak with you by phone and explain the process and answer any questions that you may have. The service is supported by the Department of Education and Science and is free of charge to applicants.

Each person who comes to Barnardos' Origins Information and Tracing Service is different and unique. Their case is not like anyone else's case. But following is a snap-shot of how the service has worked for those who have used it:

Over half of the cases dealt with by the Origins team have lead to reunion with the family of origin. Many of these cases have involved sisters and brothers who were separated as children. The team has been available to offer practical and emotional support and to facilitate this contact with family members.

Sometimes though, after all known tracing avenues are exhausted, no new information is located. The person being traced may be deceased, or a traced person may not wish to have contact. Origins' counsellors offer support and advice, whatever the outcome.

The Origins team has built up a wealth of experience and is open, sensitive and supportive to anyone who is either tracing or looking for information about their family of origin.

How to get in touch with Barnardos' Origins Information and Tracing Service

Please contact the service closest to you. If there is no service near where you live please contact our Dublin Office. For UK applicants and those living abroad please contact the Dublin Office.

Dublin:

Hyde Square,
654 South Circular Road,
Dublin 8.

T: 01- 453 03 55

E: origins@barnardos.ie

If calling from the UK please dial:

00 353 1 453 03 55

Galway:

Barnardos,
Unit 1 F
Deerpark Business Park,
Oranmore
Co. Galway.

T: 091 388 292

E: josephine.togher@barnardos.ie

Cork:

Barnardos,
Bowling Green,
White Street,
Cork.

T: 021 431 05 91

E: origins@cork.barnardos.ie

Barnardos' vision is an Ireland where childhood is valued and all children and young people are cherished equally.

Barnardos' mission is to challenge and support families, communities, society and government to make Ireland the best place in the world to be a child, focusing specifically on children and young people whose well-being is under threat.

Visit our website www.barnardos.ie
or contact our national office at:

Barnardos,
Hyde Square,
654 South Circular Road,
Dublin 8.

T: +353 (1) 453 0355
Callsave: 1850 222 300
F: +353 (1) 453 0300
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Barnardos
No child gets left behind