

Kinsolving , hello...

I'm sure you don't remember me, but you helped locate my son in Maryland several years back.

I wanted you to know that he and I have been e-mailing for 3 years now; he visited for the first time last summer, and I am just back from a 4 day visit with him. We're doing really well. Slow, but sure, and very tender exchanges... he's growing; I'm healing.

Thank you for this.

Second reason for writing, he wishes me to locate his birthfather (or the grandfather, , who is a great guy). The only info I know is the following.

I don't know if you're even doing this kind of thing anymore. Please let me know!!!

And thanks and hugs for what you did before.... life is good, and I think of you with love for your part in this.

VC, Md.

Dear Kinsolving:

Well, it has been about 18 months since my long awaited search ended. It has been a year filled with emotionally highs and lows. But I would not trade the knowledge for anything, and am forever grateful for your 15 year search and support in finding my original identity.

I met my birthmom a year ago. It is still up and down, though the relationship is improving. She had spent 45 years trying to block out my existence and had never told her husband or their children. He now knows, though she still has not told her other 2 daughters. I have met her 4 times this past year, once for an hour, then a few months later for lunch and then another lunch and then for a round of golf and dinner. She has called me on Easter and my birthday, which was a major step for her. Though, it will be a long time, if ever, before she and I will be close I am glad that I now know who she is. Apparently, she is not close with her other daughters, either. Her husband is fantastic

and he has been accepting of me and has informed me that his marriage has never been better because now he knows why she is the way that she is.

In September they told me the identity of my birthfather. Though he is deceased, his family has welcomed me with open arms. His brother called me and told me that they consider me 100% a member of the family. I have met my brother and 2 sisters, in addition to an aunt and uncle and a step grandmother. I met one of my birthdad's daughters in December. It is amazing how alike we are, considering the different environment that we grew up in (me in downtown Chicago and Lisa in rural Georgia) When they have introduced me to people I am introduced as her sister. I was down in Georgia in march, and we went to the area that my birthdad grew up in etc. My 12 year old niece emails me a few times a week and I have been invited to their house in Georgia for Thanksgiving.

I have met my cousin (birthdad's brother's son) and seen his band in concert and have talked to Uncle Jim on a regular basis and hope to get to meet him soon.

I feel as though my questions have been answered and it has been a positive part of my life and even when I am down at the coldness of my birthmother I have never had any regrets on the search.

And I want to thank you for your tenacity and your counseling.

Love,
MW, Va

Dear Kinsolving,

I wanted you to have a picture of my son and I. Finding him has made my life so much richer and has put an end to the chronic sense of grief and loss that I carried around for 33 years.

He is sensitive, caring, polite, and a wonderful person. He has a terrific wife and two adopted children. We have met twice so far and talked on the phone many, many times. I still tremble, however, as I recall my fear of making that initial phone call. How fortunate I was that he was glad to hear from me and that he does not blame me for giving him up.

As people around me found their parents and children, I became very discouraged and doubted that my search would ever be successful. I will be eternally grateful that my support group led me to Kinsolving. You are the best, both in terms of finding people and in coaching on how to make contact.

I will always appreciate your skill and impeccable professionalism.

I am still trying to reconcile thoughts of my tiny, lost baby with this adult I am getting to know. The experience overloads the intellect and the emotions and it will take us both time to get used to what we have found. I look forward to building a relationship with him and his family and loving him in a different kind of way from that which I have since he was born.

I can never thank you enough. I wish you as much happiness as you have brought to myself and countless others.

JP - NY

Dear Kinsolving,

I cannot begin to thank you enough!!!!!! Words can't express the emotions that were there between my brother and I. It took me awhile, but after running to the store to get cigarettes, calling Mom, I knew the moment was there yesterday!!!!!! You just know in your heart when the timing is right!!!! So, after trying to retain the info, you provided me in making "the first contact", I nervously returned from the store, having been in such a state of shock, and decided to email the NYA List - Sylvia's List- again for making first contacts, because my heart was beginning to race!!!! I didn't want to "blow this chance"! Couldn't stand to wait for a reply from the list, so I rummaged through some NYS returned to sender letters, I'd written last year to those in one of my databases, my pile of search materials all over the floor in my room:) It was very similar to what you suggested to say!!!! Then what you said came back into my head. I was READY!!!!!!

So, I dialed the number, wrote down the one word subjects, "just in case" we were at a loss. NOT NECESSARY!!!!!!!!!!!! I said "Hi, is this D?" Wow, hearing his voice for the first time!!! AWESOME!!!!!!!!!! Then I said, "Well, is this a good time to talk? Are you alone?" Oh, and by the way I'm not a saleslady!" He said "Yes, I guess so". I replied, "You were born on _____, in Buffalo, NY?" He said "Yes". I could tell by his reaction then, that it was okay, the tone in his voice, very easy going....I said "My name is S, I'm your

sister!!!!" He said, all excited, very receptive, "I was born _____". Then he said, "I think my Mother's name was RV..... I said does the name A M mean anything to you, then he said, "Wait a minute!!! My Dad's name was R M". I said "Yes!!!!" He said "Oh,my god this is unbelievable!!!!" We were never once at a loss of words!!!!!! He said he started to search in 1999, after his adoptive father passed away, within a month. He hired 1-800-US-Search,-nothing-:)

Funny, I'd also called them, back in the days when I was a naive searcher:)S said he tried looking for Miller on the Internet!!! Said, he even searched in FLA, thinking they may have retired there.I said, Unfortunately, things started to go in a state of disarray with his wife, and he stopped his efforts!!! She also took his computer!!!! We decided, should this had not occurred, we would have found each other over a year ago!!!!

He ransacked his house, while we were talking. There was never a real moment's silence!!!!!!!!!! He said he had the papers, with both their names on it, along with his "original birth certificate"!!!!!! As is his younger sis:), he is very disorganized!!!! At LAST HE FOUND THE PAPERS!!! EXCEPT FOR HIS BC!!!!!!!!!!!!!! He read off our birthparents names, and the actual RELINQUISHMENT PAPERS THAT HAD MOM'S/Dad's signatures. He said they looked like they were written, with the same handwriting!!!!!! ". How did they get these papers???? Have heard of the adoption decree with bnames on it but RELINQUISHMENT PAPERS. AND Original BC???? Also some of the NON-ID they had was false! Included, that he had a younger sister who was adopted!!! Also, the bfamily was of a Political Background-ALSO FALSE!!!!!! He said the latter deterred him from his search for us, because he'd had fears Politicians were crooks, at one time:). and that he didn't want anything to hurt his aparents who'd ENCOURAGED HIM TO SEARCH!!!! I must say, I respect him, for respecting his Aparents that way!!!!!!!!

Boggles my mind. Anyhow to make a long story short, I'm continuing this letter a day or so, later, as you can probably tell, by the way it's written. I'd called him on Sunday, evening, we spoke well over 4 hours!!! Only hung up because his phone battery went dead!!! Luckily for me I'd given him my number. We're both airheads!!!!!! It took a few minutes for me to relay the number to him. There is without doubt, absolutely he IS MY BROTHER!!!! He of course later called me that evening, around 1am his time!!!!

It was so funny, he said he KNEW HE HAD A SISTER who was gonna FIND HIM!!!! And, "What took you so long Sis, 45 years!!!!!!" We also wished each other belated "Happy Birthdays", his being JULY 4th, I said "By the way Happy Birthday". Mine being JULY !0th ,1955, he said Happy Birthday to you, too!!! Why'd I know that was coming!!!!:)"

We've been on the phone for hours these last few days, and to be called "SIS", since within, the first few minutes of our conversation, to hearing "I Love You" from my brother, and being given the opportunity, to say "I Love You" to him, means more than words can ever express my gratitude, for what you've done for us,
KINSOLVING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I LOVE YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

BTW, he's thinking about changing his name again!!!!!!!!!!!!

My heartfelt thanks,

SB/NY



Dear Kinsolving,

Just wanted to update you about what's going on with my birthmother. She requested pictures of myself and my family and as soon as they received them, I received a phone call. They were totally blown away by the resemblance between me, my birthmom, and my half-sister and we again talked on the phone for about 2 hours. I received their pictures today and could not believe how much we looked alike, and we again talked for over an hour. They are trying to make plans to come to Chicago for Christmas. We are all so exited.

Their daughter has sent off another batch of pictures that I should receive later this week, and she is planning to call me as well. In my wildest dreams, I would have never expected this outcome. Thank you Chris. The work you do is so very important to us.

Sincerely,

LM/NY



I spoke with Betsy again and got much more clarification - she had been married - she was separated at the time of my birth - J is my dad and my brothers dad. My brother has been looking for me for several years. I spoke with my brother and sister yesterday until 2am! Everyone is very excited and my brother has a ton of information as he has

researched the family to great extent. If I did not find him , he would have found me. Mom did not want him to search while she was alive so he made her promise to leave all information for him in the house and he would look then. It has been a very neat and almost overwhelming experience - I spoke to my adoptive brother (who is my full brother) and he is stunned. Needless to say the 4 of us will probably get together sometime in the near future, and meet later with mom. Thanks for everything!

MZ /NC

Kinsolving!

I just got off the phone with my birthmother.....WOW!!!! We talked about 30 minutes and it was very slow at first. You may know this, but she married my father. I can't believe it. I am so happy for them. She was very nice and they both have numerous health problems. Her children do not know about me and it seems that they are always or almost always messing in her affairs. She took my number, but made the comment that she didn't know where to put it for fear they would find it. I didn't know what to say to that. She did say she could hardly wait for her husband to get home...they have a lot to talk about tonight. She said I could call anytime, but with her children not knowing that she may not be able to talk. She did ask how I found her...my response was that it had taken me awhile, but where there's a will, there's a way.

I could go on and on. This is totally amazing. How long should I wait before I call her back? I don't want to be too pushy.

Thank you, thank you. I feel like I am someone new...

NB/NC
(cont)

Hi,

Just thought I would let you know what's going on. My photos are in the mail. they should have gotten them, but haven't so I guess they will today. They are getting some

photos together and we have discussed meeting a couple of times. I do get to talk to them individually now, which is much better. It seems that my father is ready for the next step, but my mother said she needs some time. I guess I have to give her some more time because I want it to go well when it does happen. My father was disappointed. It is hard to deal with both of them at the same time. He is much more open than she is. She seems to tell me a lot of things and about people I don't know. I try to bring the conversation back, but she does not say much and it is hard to have a conversation by yourself.

In any event, overall we are progressing. I guess she just needs some time. Thanks again.

If you have any thoughts, I would like to hear them.

NB/NC
(cont)

Hello again,

Can you believe that I talked with my bm again and with my bf? I think I told you before that they are married. That almost blew me away. What are the chances of that, I wonder? Anyway, we had a great conversation for about an hour. I could have talked all night, but I am trying to be considerate and realize they are older. they seem to be very receptive and curious. My father actually hinted at us getting together. No one on either side of the family knows about me...this I find questionable. How could she pull that off?.....Her oldest child at the time was 14 or 15. Does that make any sense to you?

Just wanted to keep you posted. This is totally amazing...I find myself thinking about almost all the time, but I guess that's to be expected. It blows my mind that I finally know where I was born and to whom. I am overjoyed!!!! Thanks again for everything.

NB/NC

Hi,

Just had to let you know that I have just returned from my first visit with my mother and father and oh my I can't explain how I feel. It was so incredible!!! I met them about 40 miles from where they live; however , I did ride by their house. My life will never be the same and it feels soooo good! My mother is slowly opening up and my father is so awesome. We really have a great rapport. It's amazing. Thank you so much...what a difference you've made in my life. We all had a good time and agreed to get together again. They really enjoyed meeting my husband and my mother picked on him a lot. I feel like I'm in another world. Thanks again.

NB/NC



Hi Kl,

Wanted to thank you again for all of the information! I'm still processing it all and doing research on the computer about them. I'm like a kid on Christmas morning! (or if you asked my boyfriend, a Pitbull.) I've found quite a bit. Seems one of my birth uncles is a genealogy buff and therefore I already have a complete family tree on the maternal side due to his postings at various ancestry websites.

Regarding the aunt who lives near here, for obvious reasons this has curtailed any immediate contact from me to my birth mother or anyone in her family. I'll get all I can by visiting where my bmom grew up, yearbooks etc..

Thanks again for your services. I feel like someone finally gave me what was rightfully mine to begin with. I am so happy there are people like you on earth to balance the scales of justice.

:)

CD/NC

Dear Kinsolving,

At the beginning of April, you found my husband's b-mom for us.

We both teach, and wanted to call her in the AM, so we waited until June to contact her.

All went well, thanks to your excellent coaching session.

I am the one who made the initial call. R's b-mom was very shocked to say the least. I used the phone script you gave us, telling her who I was, and asking if it was a good time to talk. She said it was - and I went over the 4 impt. points you gave us - about not interrupting her life, just wanting to talk, considering it a private matter, and saying we wanted medical info., and anything else she cared to share.

She mostly just listened as I went through those 4 points. Then, all at once she just started talking, telling me all about his b-father, etc.

She later admitted that she had very nearly hung up on me when I mentioned the date he was born. She had never told anyone in 48 years about him. Her mother (now deceased) is the only family member who knew. She had never even told her first husband of nearly 50 years.

I really think that if I had called her up and said, "I think you're my husband's b-mom, she probably would have denied it." So, I just wanted to tell you thank you for all of your help!

The coaching/counseling session is so important. I'm fairly certain this reunion would have never taken place had it not been for your knowledge and experience.

R's b-mom has said she would like to meet him someday, and has told one family member about him.

They have talked on the phone several times.

Thank you so much for bringing families together!!!

RS/OH

Dear Kinsolving,

It has taken me a few weeks to find the time to sit down and write this, but it has been on my mind daily!

I cannot thank you enough for finding my birth mother for me. I searched for her for over 12 years and got nowhere. It just amazes me that you found her in two weeks!

On my initial call, my BM was very nice but a little apprehensive. She was confused because my name was no longer the name she gave me when I was born. We spoke for about an hour and a half and learned so much about each other. She made me feel so good when she told me she thought about me every Jan. 15th on my birthday and wondered what I looked like and how I was doing all through my childhood years. As a mother of two, I know....a mother never forgets.

We exchanged pictures and she just went on and on about how proud she was of me and how beautiful my family was. I have just one half sister who is 13 years younger than me. I really have not spoken with her very much, but she seems to be happy that I found my BM.

My BM and I speak at least once a week and hope to meet each other maybe later on this summer or in the fall. She is in California, so she is a good ways from here.

Again, I cannot thank you for what you have done for me. My life is so much more complete.. I feel like I have a background now. I could not have asked for a better outcome and I hope it just keeps getting better! It helps, too, to have VERY supportive adoptive parents who have always been by my side.

Hopefully, some day I can talk my brother into calling you as he was also adopted through the same agency.

You will always hold a special place in my heart.

Fondly,
JM-NY

Dear Kinsolving,

I promised I would let you know what was going on, but up until now there hasn't been that much to say. My birth mother and I mailed each other pictures. I look just like her. No surprise there.

She called me today, I was thrilled. She told me my birth father's name, and I'm flying to L.A. to meet her next week. She said that she would tell me more about him when we meet. Unfortunately her husband doesn't know about me and this scares the heck out of her, but I'm not going to complain. So far so good.

Don't know how to thank you enough,

BS- FL/NY



Dear KI:

I wanted to thank you for the invaluable coaching you gave me in preparation for contacting my birth mother. While it took me a while to get up the nerve, and several attempts before I reached her on the phone, I finally did last month, with very rewarding results. Once the first few awkward minutes were past, we enjoyed a wonderfully rich, two hour conversation. After exchanging pictures and other correspondence, I then arranged to meet her and her family. The visit went wonderfully well, as we welcomed each other fully, and plan to meet again. It's of course too soon to say just how far our relationship will progress, but I can honestly say that, even if we never speak again, I will always feel deeply enriched by the experience. Moreover, I've been able to gather some family medical history that could be highly valuable to my own kids.

I know you asked me to let you know how my search came out; obviously very well.

Thanks for your help; I've recommended you twice already to people who have heard my story.

My best

DS - NY/CA

Kinsolving,

I hope you get GREAT pleasure from your job. You do wonderful things!

Thanks again for calling me Tuesday night. I guess I just needed to be patient. I have ALMOST made contact with my birth father. His wife called me today, I was out, she got my machine. She simply said her name (luckily I recognized it because you provided that info to me) and said I could call her daughter and she left the daughter's phone number.

The daughter was THRILLED to talk to me. She's 27 (I'm 50). She was at her parents' house and came across my letter to her father a few days ago. She said my birthfather was afraid to call me because he thought I'd be disappointed in him. The daughter pointed out some obvious things---I may want medical information, etc. She also reminded him of his daughter-in-law's comment. The daughter-in-law had been adopted as an infant, recently found her birth parents, and said that the day she found them was the happiest day of her life.

The daughter wanted to tell me a few things about my birthfather. She said he has seven children (that was counting me!). And she has invited me to a huge family reunion in August with 150-200 people. She wants me to meet "our" grandmother (his mother).

The daughter thinks my birthfather will probably call me in a few days. She also said she and her parents are coming to Florida (I live in Florida) for vacation next week and has suggested getting together.

Thanks again for putting me in touch with my birth father!

CK - OH
(cont)



Well, I met my birth father. He, his wife, and an adult daughter and her family were over near Pensacola on vacation. My husband and I met him, his wife and daughter in Tallahassee---about halfway between Pensacola and Jacksonville (where I live).

It seemed a bit anti-climatic. The daughter is wonderful! The wife is kind of excited about this "discovery" and very personable. And my birthfather---what can I say? A bit disappointing. When we talked on the phone, he seemed surprised to hear from me,

and I asked if he had thought about me or wondered anything about me over the last 51 years. He said, "No, never once!" He just kind of lacks some warmth and kindness.

But now I know! It really brought closure to the situation of wondering about my birth father for so many years.

Thanks again for your help and closing this chapter in my life.

CK- OH



Dear Kinsolving,

I was just at your website once again to take a look for a young adoptee I have met who will probably be contacting you re her search in Utah. I told her that you all are the best I have heard of!!!

I met her in Phoenix, AZ. She is a friend of my birthdaughter whom you found for me!

We (my husband, adult children and their spouses and children) were in Phoenix for my birthdaughter's wedding.

You found her a year ago February.....I just can not tell you how wonderful our reunion has been....some ups and downs but getting better and better!

All of the children get along so very well....it is almost like they had been raised together! She has two children which gives us 5 grandchildren altogether! And the cousins are crazy about each other!!!

It truly is amazing! And I will never be able to thank you enough for making it possible for all of us to be a whole family!

Sincerely,
JB -PA

Kinsolving,

I thought I would share a photo of my son and myself with my daughter and grandchildren.

Once again, thank you so much.

I am trying to help my son find his father. He is still in the KC area but has an unlisted phone number. Is that something you can do?

Thanks again,
LS/CA



Dear Kinsolving:

This is our belated "thank you" for tracking down S's birth mother in April. As all the testimonials read, you work very fast. And your assistant was very nice on the telephone. This has been a joint project for S and I so we spent a lot of time talking about what to do with the information. Since his birth mother was single (her husband (a subsequent relationship - not S's father) had abandoned her about 25 years ago) we thought that she might be receptive to hearing from us.

S's biggest concern was rejection by her. Although you suggested calling rather than writing, S simply couldn't pick up the phone to make the call. He's a professional writer so he wrote a wonderful letter telling about himself (married, a baby, Ivy League education, etc). He asked his birthmother to call on a certain day and time. He said that if he didn't hear from her he would understand that she didn't want contact. Well, at the appointed time she called and they had a nice three-hour conversation. Her kids had known about his existence for about the last ten years. They seem like basically nice people who have had tough lives but are doing fairly well now. She talked mostly of herself and said that the details around the time of his birth were fuzzy. She said that if she concentrated, she was sure she'd be able to remember a lot more. She expressed surprise to have heard from him but was very happy. "Your timing is great," she said, "This comes at a good time in my life." She and her kids, she said, were anxious to know more about S. She said that she is always there for her kids and that S is one of her kids so feel free to call any time of the day or night. About a week later I sent her a very nice letter thanking her for being so nice and I said we'd e-mail some photos to her. So about a week ago we send her the e-mail photos (she has e-mail at home). Several

days passed and we got a response. She said that we've really "brightened up" her "boring life" and that the pictures were "wonderful". I sent her an e-mail asking if S or our daughter bore any resemblance to her family. And I also said that we were anxious to see the pictures of her family that she had promised. That was about a week ago. No reply. We're puzzled. She seems nice and happy to have heard from us. But things are moving so slowly. In my letter I said that we really were anxious to get any medical information (diseases and allergies). Our perception is that we are so hungry for some quick, basic info and she is thinking more of a long term relationship thing which typically develops more slowly. Perhaps the issue is also that we've had the months to think about hiring you and had time to make the decision. This has been sprung on her rather suddenly.

Basically, S and I are fairly type-A New Yorkers who, if left up to our own devices, would hop on a plane to her town and spent a few hours hearing her story. We told her that we'd like to do that or fly her up to NY.

We don't yet know how things are going to turn out. Any insight into the mind of a typical birth mother? Is any birth mother typical? To reiterate, all contact has been very positive, it's just that the progress in knowing things is very slow. Any words of wisdom? We'd appreciate it. We don't want to blow it and come on too strong!

Thanks for your help and advice.

MEB/SB / NY



Dear KI,

As for as an update on my story-----I did call J myself on the Friday night after Easter and he and I met in New Orleans on the following Tuesday afternoon. We have had a wonderful reunion so far. He has come back to New Orleans once since then and met my husband and our oldest daughter. Next weekend we are all flying to Jacksonville where J will be with his family and also where our second daughter is doing her residency in internal medicine. We are all meeting on Saturday and this time we will meet J's wife also.

J could not have been happier to have been found and says that he loves telling everyone "the story". He says that he even told a complete stranger at the airport!!!

Best regards and thanks again for helping me find Joe.

DK/AL

Kinsolving,

I want to thank you for your fast and accurate service. Unfortunately, my husband jumped the gun and contacted them Saturday night as soon as we returned home and got email. They were very receptive and she has always wanted me to find her. By Sunday, her husband told her we had called and by Sunday (last night) night we were in Wilmington sitting around the table with J and D (my bmom). I guess we are very anxious people and couldn't wait to make the call back to you today and see what we should do. Anyway, it all worked out wonderfully!!!!!!

Again, THANK YOU for what you have done. I had my first real full night of sound sleep last night in my entire life, and now I and she (bmom) can rest peacefully. Enough thanks can't be enough for what you have provided me. Although I still believe that the information should be available for adult adoptees I thank you for being there - I couldn't have found her without you. THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

SR/NC

Kinsolving,

Just wanted to let you know that I have talked to my mom (we haven't stopped talking) and things are looking great. We've exchanged pictures, and she says I look just like my father. She is planning on coming to North Carolina soon.

Thank you so much for finding her for me.

JS/NY