

Participants' information survey 2010-now Giving up a Child for Adoption in the Netherlands:

A survey into the experience of people who were pregnant and considered giving up their child for adoption after birth

's-Hertogenbosch, November 2023

Dear participant,

This information letter contains details regarding the survey '2010-now Giving up a Child for Adoption in the Netherlands'. This information will help you decide whether you would like to participate in the survey.

Would you like to participate? Then, we need your permission. But first, we will give you some more details about the survey. Feel free to discuss this information with your partner, parent(s), friends or family. Do you have any questions after reading this letter? Please contact the surveyors. You will find their telephone numbers and email addresses at the bottom of this letter.

1. Who are taking part in the survey?

This is a survey into the experiences of pregnant people who considered giving up their child for adoption after birth. Those who received counselling during the process, can participate in the survey. It doesn't matter what the ultimate decision was - taking care of your child yourself, giving the child up for adoption, placing the child in a foster family or any other solution.

Participation takes place on a voluntary basis. We are looking for people who:

- ✓ were pregnant and considered giving up their child for adoption after birth;
- ✓ received counselling at the time from a particular organization;
- ✓ experienced this situation in 2010 or later;
- ✓ gave birth at least six months ago;
- ✓ want to share their experiences;
- ✓ are aged 16 or over.

2. What is the purpose of the survey?

Giving your child up for adoption is a life-changing event with serious personal consequences. We therefore think it's particularly important that parents facing such a decision get the right support and counselling. This survey investigates the experiences of people involved in counselling, in order to make improvements where necessary.

3. What ethical review board has approved this survey?

The Ethics Review Board of the Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences of Utrecht University has approved the survey.

4. How do we carry out the survey?

This survey consists of an online questionnaire. It can be filled in from November 2023 onwards. We are looking for at least 30 people to take part in the survey.

The questionnaire contains questions about the period before and after giving birth, about the reflection time, the choices you were given, the information you received and what the support and counselling was like for you. The questionnaire starts with some general questions.

5. What do we need from you?

Completing the questionnaire will take about 30 minutes. Answers are never right or wrong. All questions are about your experiences. It is your choice where and when you want to complete the questionnaire. At home, for example, or somewhere else. You can use your smart phone, tablet or laptop to answer the questions.

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of participating in this survey?

We don't think completing the questionnaire has any advantages or disadvantages for you. By participating in the survey, you will help us gain a better understanding of parents who are involved in the decision-making process related to adoption.

Once you have completed the questionnaire and you keep thinking about your answers, you can get help from one of the surveyors. Please get in touch with Fiom surveyors by e-mail or phone. They can schedule an appointment with you. Would you like to speak to a Fiom professional who knows a lot about unwanted or unplanned pregnancies and adoption? Please ask the surveyors. They will arrange for a meeting.

7. I do not want to participate in the survey. What happens now?

Participating in the survey is completely your own choice. Participation takes place on a voluntary basis. If you decide to take part and you change your mind, it's all right. You may opt out. The same goes for completing the questionnaire.

Your answers in the questionnaire remain anonymous. Please note that it is not possible to delete any answers after you have submitted the questionnaire. Since the survey is done anonymously, we can't look back and see who gave which answers.

8. Do I take part in the survey free of charge or do I receive a compensation?

There is no payment involved in taking part in the survey. Participation takes place on a voluntary basis. Nevertheless, we would like to thank you for your effort and as a compensation, we offer you a 20-euro gift voucher. This requires filling out a separate form, stating your email address. This form will appear after you have submitted the questionnaire. It is not linked to the questionnaire, so your answers to the survey questions remain anonymous.

9. What happens to my data?

Your answers in the questionnaire remain anonymous. The surveyors are not able to identify the person who completed the questionnaire. We do not enquire after specific personal data, such as your name, date of birth or address. Other people don't know that you're participating in the survey. The information we receive from the questionnaires is processed anonymously into a survey report or scientific article. We keep your data in a secure way, in compliance with the law on privacy. Signing the consent form means that you give us permission to collect, save and view the questionnaire. The surveyors will save and keep the anonymous questionnaires for 10 years. The email address you enter when collecting the gift voucher will be removed 30 days after it has been sent.

10. Do you want to know what the survey's outcomes are?

We expect to be able to share the survey results in 2025. We will do this on our website and social media channels.

11. Giving consent

If you decide to participate in the survey, please fill out the online [consent form](#). By giving your permission, you confirm that you understand the participant's information and that you agree to take part in the survey. You also accept the [privacy regulations](#) and [Fiom's terms and conditions](#).

12. Where can I find the questionnaire?

You will be automatically forwarded to the questionnaire after completing the [consent form](#).

13. Do you have any other questions?

The surveyors are happy to answer them. You can call the surveyors or send them an email. Want to file a complaint? Please contact Eline Dalmijn, Manager at Fiom. She knows a lot about unintended pregnancies, but is not directly involved in the survey. You can find her contact details at the bottom of this letter.

Contact details surveyors

Astrid Werdmuller (Senior Policy Specialist)

Sophie Bolt (Research Coordinator)

Email: onderzoek@fiom.nl

Telephone: 088-1264950

Contact in case of complaints

Eline Dalmijn (Manager Unintended Pregnancy Programme)

E-mail: edalmijn@fiom.nl

Tel: 088-1264934

Contact in case of formal complaints about the survey

Ethics Review Board Complaints Officer

of the Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences

Utrecht University

Email: klachtenfunctionaris-fetcsocwet@uu.nl.