



HeirSearchTM
We Find Missing Heirs A Better Way

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Our Approach

HeirSearch (a division of International Genealogical Search Inc.) works with executors, administrators, trustees, fiduciaries, bank and trust officers, and their counsel to establish kinship for legal purposes. Since 1967, we've used forensic genealogy, an analytical research method, to successfully complete tens of thousands of worldwide searches.

When HeirSearch company founder, C. Tim Rodenbush, originally coined our slogan WE FIND MISSING HEIRS A BETTER WAY™, it meant reasonable fees never based on a percentage of an inheritance. We achieve industry-leading results with our steadfast devotion to Tim's A Better Way philosophy: consistently charging fair and reasonable, non-percentage-based fees for excellent, court-ready results. Thanks to our proven record of success and dedication to our values, HeirSearch has become the industry leader and heir search firm of choice.



companies and governmental agencies in North America. Our extensive experience and worldwide resources mean that we can solve cases both simple and complex, domestically and internationally.

When a search concludes, we send detailed reports, including family tree charts, supporting documentation and sworn affidavits, to help our clients settle matters as quickly and as cost effectively as possible.

Proud To Be

- Value Partner of the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils;
- Gold Level Associate Member of The American Bankers Association;
- Member of The Federation of Genealogical Societies;
- A+ Member of The Better Business Bureau.

What We Do

Our satisfied clients include sole legal practitioners as well as some of the largest probate and estate planning law firms, financial institutions, private



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A Better Way

Significant concerns have been expressed over the years by the legal profession and consumers about the percentage fees, or “contingency fees,” charged by some heir locator firms. Many heir locator firms, or “heir hunters,” may use questionable, high-pressure tactics to obtain excessive percentage fees of inheritances. In order to protect their fees, heir hunters often withhold the name of the deceased, and even the amount of the inheritance, until the heir agrees to sign a contract. This means heirs are asked to sign away an unknown amount, sometimes as much as 50% of their total inheritance. There is A Better Way.

Reasonable Non-Percentage-Based Fees

Our fees are quoted in advance and determined by a set fee schedule based on the type of search and your requirements – never as a percentage of the trust or estate.

Authorized Search Services

Significant windfall rewards are available for heir hunters, who frequently start unauthorized searches without client consent or contractual arrangement. Our reasonable fees are always quoted in advance, and we never initiate an independent search.



Our experience has shown that courts look more favorably on agreements with heir search firms when the cost of the search is known in advance.

97% Success Rate Since 1967

Thanks to a combination of specialized education, training and experience, our research experts are highly qualified to find missing heirs and beneficiaries. Since 1967, this knowledge and expertise has resulted in an average success rate of 97%.

Documented Court-Ready Reports

Our final report provides clear and convincing evidence, suitable for an exhibit in court proceedings. All available supporting documentation is included in a concise, easy-to-read format.

Worldwide Service

HeirSearch has successfully located missing heirs and lost beneficiaries in more than 65 countries. Regardless of the location of the missing heirs or amount of information available on them, our in-house knowledge and international expertise means we succeed where other search firms often fail.

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Search Services

HeirSearch provides forensic genealogy search services to legal and trust professionals to help them find missing heirs and meet their fiduciary responsibilities.

Estate and Trust

We use our professional expertise to identify, locate, prove and report known and unknown heirs or beneficiaries, both domestically and internationally.

Notice

We help clients fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities in providing notice to heirs by supplying current contact information (or the results of our due diligence search efforts) in order to provide notice of estate or trust matters.

Property Matters

We identify, locate, prove and report heirs or beneficiaries on matters related to Clear and Quiet Title Actions and Property Ownership. These include Land, Oil, Gas and Mineral Rights Owner Searches; Intellectual Property Owners/Copyright Owners Searches; and Unclaimed Property Holders, Lost Security Holders, and Unresponsive Payee Searches.



Our Expertise Includes







- Locating Missing, Unknown, or Estranged Parties for Notice or Distribution of Funds in Probate or Intestacy Matters
- Determination of Beneficiaries for Trust Termination
- Determination of Owners, Heirs Successors and Assigns for Real Property Title and Oil, Gas or Mineral Rights
- Locating Witness to Wills
- DNA Kinship Verification
- Multilingual Research Staff
- Discretionary & Ethical Research and Investigative Procedures
- Verification and / or Completion of Other Third-Party Genealogical Research
- Vital Record Searches & Obtaining Records to Prove Heirship
- Tight Timeline & Budget Management for Court-Appointed Administrators
- Expert Witness Testimony and Proving Heirship to the Court
- Family Tree Reconstruction and Validation
- Court-Accepted Affidavits & Due Diligence Reporting
- Affidavit or Declaration of Heirship

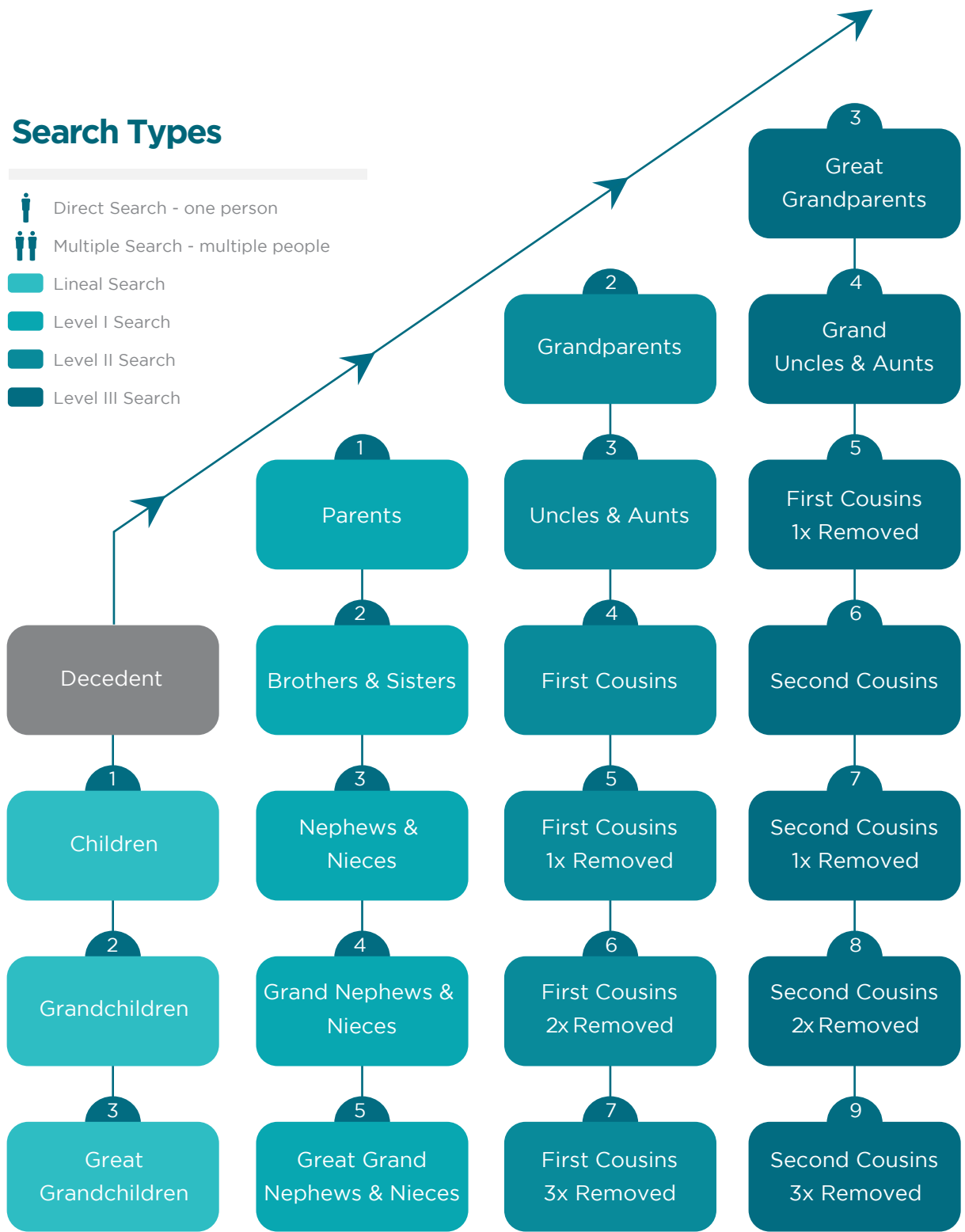
Other Search Services

- Class Action Searches
- Pension Plan Searches
- Mass Tort Plaintiffs Search
- Heirs of Wrongful Death Search

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Search Types

-  Direct Search - one person
-  Multiple Search - multiple people
-  Lineal Search
-  Level I Search
-  Level II Search
-  Level III Search



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Testimonials

We take pride in our people and our process, but our satisfied clients are the reason for our success.

We were able to review the report and are pleased with the results. The declaration is perfectly suited for our use in resolving this case. I appreciate the researcher's hard work and yours as well.

Attorney, Rancho Mirage, CA

We are FULLY happy with the results of your company's efforts!! I read through the entire report and was very impressed with the process, the timing, and the results of your service! You did a first-class, organized and very professional job. The results were shared with our trust committee and attempts to work with the beneficiary are underway now. My position would be to always partner with you when the need arises. We will keep you updated as things come up in our business.

Bank Vice President, Santa Fe, NM

The work you and your team completed was very thorough and professional. I will not hesitate to recommend you to any of my colleagues.

Attorney, New York, NY



I have reviewed the information that you sent me and I am very impressed. Feel free to use me as a reference for your firm and services.

Attorney, Pittsburgh, PA

Through your excellent services we were able to identify and locate survivors on the mother's side of the family and establish that out of twelve possible family lines, only two are currently represented today. We also appreciate the enormity of the effort that was invested in attempting to locate family members on the father's side. Again, our thanks to you for your assistance, your efforts, and your ability to communicate back to us in an appropriate amount of time.

Senior Trust Officer, Boise, ID

I was very pleased with the work your firm did, in fact I was amazed given the circumstances you were able to locate my beneficiaries. I would not hesitate to use you again or to refer colleagues.

Attorney, Fort Lauderdale, FL

You guys did a great job - timely and responsive. I will definitely recommend your service if anyone asks.

Fort Worth, TX Attorney

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Our Process

We offer no-cost, no-obligation consultations, even if you're not planning to start a search right away. Feel free to call us with any questions you might have: as subject matter experts, we've seen it all and we can help. Our firm dedication to A Better Way means that we will never initiate a search without your authorization.

To Start a Search

- An Account Manager profiles your heir search requirements and provides you with a no-cost, no-obligation written fee quotation.
- Our search for missing heirs starts upon your execution/signing of our quote.
- Your file is assigned to one of our professional forensic genealogical researchers. No matter who your assigned researcher is, you have access to our entire team. Our researchers collaborate on complex forensic genealogical issues to find solutions that are unique to each file.
- Your researcher contacts you to verify the service details, including information provided, reporting needs and deadlines. We clarify your research goals and timelines, and request copies



of all relevant information, like birth and death records, wills or obituaries, and last known contact information.

- We keep you advised of our progress by your choice of communication: via telephone, email, fax or standard mail.
- You receive a timely research summary (usually on a monthly basis), outlining the current status, research conducted, documents obtained and research next steps.
- We update you immediately if significant discoveries occur. We encourage you to contact us should you obtain new data pertinent to your search, or if you have any questions concerning the research summary.

When the Search is Complete

- We contact you immediately.
- You receive a written report, suitable for court, that includes all supporting documentation required to establish the identities of the parties referred to in the report.
- When appropriate, your family tree is customized to include the names, birth and death dates, corresponding exhibit numbers, and references to the individual paragraphs in our report (also made available to you in digital format).

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Our Promise

Solution-Oriented Approach

We address all potential roadblocks, like unverified information or sealed adoption records, at the beginning of every search, and continue to update you throughout the process.

Fully Insured Searches

For the protection of all concerned parties, we maintain corporate insurance coverage for errors, omissions (\$2,000,000) and / or general liability (\$5,000,000).

Reasonable Fees

Our fees are always reasonable and non-percentage-based. Services are provided on an hourly basis with a recommended number of hours estimated based on the type of search required – never on the size of the trust or estate. Our fee quotations are always based on an Account Manager’s careful recommendations, tailored to your heir search requirements.

Extensive Database Access and Worldwide Resources

Our resources include digital and physical, in-house commercial and public records databases, libraries and archival records.



We have established connections and relationships around the world to aid in our search.

Comprehensive Analysis

All information provided is analyzed before research starts, and confirmed as new information accumulates. You can contact your researcher via telephone or email at any time to provide answers to any questions you may have. We do not exceed our initial authorized number of hours without your approval. Should additional hours be required to complete your search, we will advise you in advance and obtain approval prior to proceeding.

Contact Us Today

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