
From: Gary Osbrey <garyo@winyradio.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:37 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: SB 59 Testimony

My name is Gary Osbrey and I am no longer a dirty little secret – thanks to the State of Rhode Island. I am a Connecticut resident, but I was born in Rhode Island and given away for adoption as an infant. At age 38, I asked the state of Rhode Island to give me my original birth certificate and they said no, sorry, we can't do that. We know everything about your life, we just can't tell you. It's the law.

Fourteen years later, they changed the law, they gave me my original birth certificate and my life changed forever. I searched for and found my birthmother. I sent a letter and waited for a reply. 4 days after I sent my letter, my phone rang. It was my birthmother. She admitted she was my mother and she proceeded to tell me her story. She said she always knew this day would come. It has been seven months since that first phone call and we have spoken on the phone every single day – seven days a week – for seven months. She texts me every day. She sends me at least one letter per week – sometimes two. I am a secret to her family. She never told her parents, siblings, her husband or her children. She prays every day for God to show her a sign – to give her the courage to reveal her secret. She has given me a letter for safe-keeping to be used in the event of her untimely death. A letter to be shown to her children which tells the whole story and asks them to accept me into their lives. I have flown out to visit her on 3 separate occasions. When we meet, we hold hands and we pray to God on our knees and give thanks for the blessing we have received. We are in awe of this gift. We spent my 51st birthday together - just me and my mother. It was the first birthday in my life where I didn't have to wonder if someone was out there thinking about me. Last September, for the first time in my life, I filled out my medical history form – an occasion to be celebrated by me. The shame of the secret is no more. I am not a dirty little secret anymore. My story is known and has been told and will continue to be told. I know who my mother is – and she loves me. My mother loves me. Imagine, if I was born just a few miles to the west in CT, this glorious, life changing reunion would not be possible. The State of CT would deny me this joy. They would deny me the chance to know, to be whole, to finally answer life long questions. Get out of the secret business. Get out of the dark ages. This is a cold war-relic. This is the Berlin Wall. Free Connecticut adoptees from their shame. Let them be whole. Let them know their origins, their history. It is a basic human right. You have NO RIGHT to deny that.

Gary Osbrey

197 Grove Street

Putnam, CT 06260

860-928-6309

garyo@winyradio.com