

Monteiro, Virginia

From: Anne Steers <Anne@rkidsct.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 4:39 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: Original Birth Certificates to Adult Adoptees - Bill SB59

I'm sending testimony in regards to Adult Adoptees having access to their Original Birth Certificates.

I am an Adoption Professional who has worked in Adoption in both the Public and Private sectors for over 25 years. I have been involved with over 100 adoption placements and I over saw the Adoption Program including the Search Unit for Catholic Charities of Fairfield County.

I am also an Adoptive Mother.

One thing that I have learned over the years is the extreme importance of information and documentation to those individuals who have been placed in Adoption. Every piece of information from a Birth Mothers favorite color to the time of actual birth become the foundation of an Adopted individuals' "story". It is the story that most of us know and have ready access to. We have the ability to reminisce over and over again with the people who were there. Did I cry as a baby? Do you have that striped baby hat that I wore in the hospital?

Adult Adoptees don't have that luxury. They have only what has been given to them by agency workers. Surely they have the right to their own Birth Certificates.

As one Adult Adoptee said to me, " I was the only one that wasn't part of the adoption process, you all came up with the plan, the plan to place me in adoption but I was the only one who didn't sign any of the paper work, how could I ?"

Most of the Birth Mothers I have worked with have had no idea their children would not have access to the original Birth Certificates. They are aware that a Birth Certificate has identifying information on it and they are willing to share that information and more with their children.

Why should Adopted people be the only ones in society that don't have the right to this information? What did they do to be banned from what we all have the ready access to when we want to. When we get married. When we need to identify who we are in this world.

I would hope that this bill SB59 is supported and approved in 2013.

Thank you for your support.

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