

Haggerty, Katie

From: mbdmsw@cox.net
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 5:00 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: In Support of Senate Bill 1067

Dear Legislators,

As an former adoption social worker with over 10 years of experience working in a private adoption agency in the state of CT, I am writing to encourage the passage of Senate Bill 1067 - An Act Concerning A Biological Parent Access to Certain Documents in Cases Involving Voluntary Termination of Parental Rights.

I feel that birth parents should have free access to any documents they signed to voluntarily terminate their parental rights in order to place their child in an adoptive home . Unfortunately, in my work with birth parents who placed children for adoption in the 1950's and 60's, free access was not given. In examining files I found that in many cases birth parents were not given copies of the documents nor were they informed of the date and place where the probate court hearing regarding termination of their parental rights was being conducted.

Access to these documents should only be given to the parties that signed them or their attorneys, not to the general public. As many probate court documents are not available to the public this is not unusual..

I am aware of many birth parents who are interested in obtaining the documents in order to share them with legislators. Viewing these documents will show that the long standing misconception that birth parents were promised confidentiality regarding their identities being revealed to the children they placed for adoption is not true. There is no language in the termination of parental rights documents that supports or promises confidentiality in any form to birth parents.

I urge you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 1067 and give birth parents the respect to obtain the legal documents that they signed, as would be afforded to any citizen of the State of Ct.

I thank you for your consideration.

Mary-Beth Dobmeier, LCSW
155 Prospect St.
Wethersfield, CT 06109