

Gretchen Anderson

Please support SB 972

I am a birthmother who relinquished a daughter in 1968. I am a strong supporter of open birth records for birth parents and adoptees. They are the people named on the birth certificate and it should be rightfully theirs. If it's not theirs, whose is it? And what right has the government or any agency to tell them they can't have that document?

It's past time to stop discriminating against people simply because they were adopted, especially only those adopted during specified years. And how on earth would an adopted person who has not found his/her birth parents know whether or not they are deceased! How cruel and inhumane to deny a person knowledge of his/her genetic parents while those parents are alive and could share information and explain the story of the pre-adoption beginnings of the adoptee.

People involved in the adoption triangle are just like other people. We like some of our family members and friends more than others. When we find those from whom we've been separated by relinquishment and adoption, both sides make the decision to include the newfound person in their life or not, and if included, to what degree. This is what all of us do when we meet new people. We are not insensitive clods who insert ourselves where we are not wanted. For obvious reasons, you might surmise that adoptees are more sensitive than the average person to rejection. And birth mothers can be more sensitive to rejection having lived with secrets and shame for years. If rejected, we retreat. It's up to the two people involved.

I have been a facilitator for a birth mother support group for several years. I have met birth mothers who don't think they should search because they might interfere in their offspring's life, I've met those who are fearful, but I have never met one who didn't want to be found.

I have been reunited with my daughter since 1987, almost 32 years. We enjoy each other, we argue at times, and act like normal every-day people, which is exactly what we are. However, neither of us can obtain her original birth certificate. Why is that? Is it because legislators think they know better than we whether or not we should meet? Why are legislators and the existing law discriminating against those of us who want to know one another? Why are they placing blocks to prevent it?

Please pass SB 972. It grants a basic human right to all people equally.

Sincerely,

Gretchen B Anderson