

**Dear Members of the Planning and Development Committee:**

It is my understanding that you considering open records for adult adoptees in the state of CT. As an adoptee from the state of NY, and 83 years of age, and having been working with the ALMA Society for the past 28 years, it is imperative that CT pass this bill allowing adult adoptees to access their original birth certificates without exception. (See below with current law)

NJ opened their records a couple of years ago, and there have been absolutely no problems.

With the advancement of medical technology, it is so important for adoptees to know their genetic makeup, and medical histories. Our doctors need that information.

If you pass this bill, and it goes into effect in 2020, this will give birth parents an opportunity to provide their information as to whether they want contact or not, and if you undertake this discussion on March 14, 2019, there will be ample time for them to do that.

From my experience, birth parents who have relinquished their children want to know that they did make the right choices so many years ago, and very few, in my experience, have declined contact - but now they can indicate they do or do not wish contact, but at least provide medical information.

Adoptees also should have the right to know their biological siblings if the birth parents do not wish contact.

This is a listing of all states that have opened their records (of course, with certain stipulations) but you can see that the northern states are coming on board. As of 2017

- Alabama – Adoption records are open.
- Alaska – Adoption records are open.
- Colorado – Adoptions records are open for adoptees whose adoptions were finalized between 07/01/1951 to 06/30/1967 and 09/01/1999 to present. All adoption records will open (original birth certificates available) on 01/01/2016.
- **Connecticut – Adoption records are open for adoptions finalized after 10/01/1983. (Why after 1983 - what about prior years - let's be consistent**
- Delaware – Adoption records are open. Birth parents can sign a no contact veto.
- Illinois – Adoption records are open.
- Indiana – Adoption records prior to 1940 may be open.
- Iowa – Adoption records are open prior to 07/01/1941.
- Kansas – Adoption records are open.
- Maine – Adoption records are open.
- Maryland – Most adoption records prior to 06/01/1947 are open.
- Massachusetts – Adoption records are open for birth years prior to 4/14/1974.
- Michigan – Adoption records are open if the birth parent's rights were terminated prior to 05/28/1945 or on or after 09/12/1980.
- Minnesota – Adoption records are open for adoptions finalized after 8/1/1982.
- Montana – Adoption records are now open as long as the birth occurred 30 years ago or more. So, at age 30, people can now obtain their original birth certificates.
- New Hampshire – Adoption records are open.
- New Jersey – Adoption Records (original birth certificate) opened 01/01/2017.
- Ohio – Adoption records are open.
- Oklahoma – Adoption records are open for adoptions finalized after 11/01/1997.
- Oregon – Adoption records are open.
- Pennsylvania – Access to original birth certificates available 11/3/2017.
- Rhode Island – Adoption records are open. records

- Tennessee – Adoption records are open. No-contact vetos are available to birth parents if the adoption was finalized after 1951.
- Vermont – Adoption records are open for adoptions finalized after 07/01/1986.
- Washington – Adoption records are open.

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