

Members of the Planning & Development Committee in support of S. B. 972

Rita M. Guimond

The below is my first Facebook post in support of Bill 5408 and the year before for Senate Bill 977

I am posting a very personal item about myself.....because I need your support. You may or may not know that I was adopted. I grew up in a great town, with great friends, went to great schools and you all know me as Rita....Rita Guimond. This is the name my adoptive parents gave me.

Back in 1958, birth mothers identities were protected and original birth certificates were legally sealed. This meant that no one would know the identity of my birth mother, nor would she or her family know who adopted me. I believe her parental rights were terminated when she surrendered me at birth.

Thanks to my adoptive parents I've enjoyed a great life, surrounded by great friends. I feel very blessed that I was "chosen. Shortly after my adoption, my mother delivered my baby sister. They say it happens all the time. Anyway, at a very young age I was told that I was adopted.

As the years passed, I of course always wondered where I came from, but as we grow older, family medical history becomes a big factor in our lives. Of course, I did not, nor do I know my family history. Answers to all of my questions could be found on my original birth certificate.

My updated testimony

Since my birth certificate still remains sealed, I have searched other avenues of finding out where I come from. Thanks to joining Ancestry.com I have found my first cousin Andrea Millette-Murray. It turns out she is on my birth fathers side. We have become very close and communicate daily.

My adopted parents did have a record of my birth name. My father finally gave it to me, before he died, when I tried to vacation out of the country. I told him I needed my birth certificate and not the certificate of baptism that I used for Identification. He did not know that I had a real birth certificate with my adopted name, so he gave me my adoption papers. My birth name is Judy Ann Garon.

My new story

In May of 2018, my cousin Andrea with the help of a few leads discovered my mother's side of the family. I HAVE TWIN BROTHERS, PAUL AND PETER! I also learned that my birth mother, Yvette Garon was still alive and living with my brother Peter, in Hartford, CT. Not a half hour from where I live in Manchester.

In July I met my twin brother Paul. He knew nothing about me as I was kept a secret from all. Although, I later discovered a few aunts knew about me, and one of them even stated Judy Ann found us....yes I did.

My birth mother was 90 years old and in August, 2018 passed away suddenly. I never got to meet her, and maybe that was for the best. She believed I was dead, or that is what she said on her death bed when they told her they found me.....

I attended my mother's funeral. My brother insisted I sit right up front with the family, and my name was mentioned in her obituary. I also met the entire Garon family who, have welcomed me with open arms. I have lunch with aunts and uncles and cousins all the time and we communicate often. After my mother died, I was given two gold bracelets owned by my birth mom. One, from my aunts, and one from my brother Paul. Paul and I have since become very close in less than a year. He lives in South Carolina near his son Joe, my nephew.

At one lunch, my aunt grabbed my hand and said you have hands just like hers. I have many pictures of her and the entire family. But my cousins and my brother Paul have become part of my every day, and I can't imagine my life without them.

Tears come to my eyes when I think of all the years I have lost, not knowing my brother, cousins, aunts and uncles. For me, it was okay not to have met my birth parents. However, siblings, and the knowledge of my families health history is something I should not have been denied.

I pray this is the year you pass our bill to open adoption records....SB 972.

WE NEED TO KNOW!!!

Rita M. Guimond