

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lynne Katzfey. I'm a birth mother who relinquished my first born child, a daughter, in 1965. In September of 1994, I was reunited with my daughter. After establishing our reconnected relationship, I petitioned the courts of Illinois to have her original birth certificate released. The courts complied and I received her OBC in time to present it to her on her 30th birthday. My daughter was an adult and as we were reunited and her adoptive parents knew of the reunion, there was no one to "protect". To have her true certificate of birth meant the world to my daughter. It was a validation to her of her actual birth and for me it was a validation of being her mother.

I find it difficult to believe that in 2019 adoptees are still struggling in their quest to have in their possession a document that every other person in this country has as a given. From the age of 18, everyone is an adult, and there should be no hindrance to requesting and receiving a this legal document. The argument put forth by adoption agencies and some adoption attorneys is that birth mothers were given a promise of secrecy. No one gave me or any other birth mother I know that "promise". It's a false reason. There are a minute number of birth mothers who might still cling to the idea of secrecy and not wanting to revisit that painful time of their life. The majority of birth mothers love their children.....all their children, and welcome reunion and having a relationship with the child lost to adoption.

Please look into your hearts and vote to give adoptees the civil right that all other citizens take for granted.

Regards,

Lynne A. Katzfey