

Hi, My name is Nancy Nelson. I was born in Hartford, CT in Dec 1960. I was immediately given up for adoption and placed in foster care and labeled handicapped, not expected to walk. My parents became my foster parents in June 1961. The adoption was finalized in Aug 1962. I did not walk until I was 3 years old. My entire life was living in uncertainty as to walking, let alone overall health. My inability to get genetic/family health information has always made my life harder. I did finally walk at age 3. At age 6 it became obvious that my legs were growing at different rates. But there was no family history to help with treatment. At age 16 I had major orthopedic surgery to make my legs the same length, a 4.2 cm discrepancy. The good leg was shortened to present scoliosis. If we had been able to determine family history vs birth defect would have resulted in a better outcome. I have had a total of 8 orthopedic surgeries just so I can walk. The lack of background information has made it harder. I did find my adoptive mother based on having a fairly unique birth name. Through Ancestry.com I have narrowed my father down to 2 men both dead for 15 years. I am now becoming aware of family health issues of diabetes, heart disease and colon cancer. Had I known about the family history earlier, I could have been more vigilant in protecting my health.

Why am I denied access to information about my biological parents that impact my day to day life?

Nancy Nelson