

Support SB 972 - Current System Does NOT Work!

March 14, 2019

Dear Senators and Assembly Members,

I urge you to please **support SB 972 a bill extending Public Act 14-133 to include all adult adoptees so that there can be a dignify, orderly way to manage the adult adoptee/birth family search and reunion process.**

I know and respect that some of you have been on the other side of this issue in years past but now, with the availability of simple DNA testing, this whole issue has been turned on its head. People are now literally finding their extended birth families on AncestryDNA and FaceBook and, on their own, cold calling and approaching 1st/2nd Cousins to meet. Typically these extended cousins have no idea that their relatives even had a child that they gave up for adoption. Clearly everyone agrees that this ad hoc approach does not treat the birth mother or the adult adoptee with the dignity that they deserve. Note: It is with that in mind that, as a professional searcher, I always assist and insist that adult adoptees contact their birth mothers/fathers directly.

Further, you must understand that the reality is that the current system does not work. I share the following example from one of my adult adoptee clients. She dutifully went to the CT agency that handled her adoption, Catholic Charities, not once but twice and paid them each time in order to reach out to her birth mother and ask her if she was open to meeting her. On both occasions they took her money only to report back that they could not locate her birth mother to ask – even though they had access to her name, DOB and previous addresses. If my client had accepted their results and quietly went away – after all, Catholic Charities will readily testify and assure you that they are the designated “experts” sanctioned by the CT Legislature to officially assist adoptees in this process – she would never have reunited with her birth mother.

Luckily, she did not accept their incompetence and came to me for assistance. **Using DNA, I found her birth mother who was living less than FIVE MILES from the Catholic Charities Office. FIVE MILES, and Catholic Charities couldn't find her!! So don't you dare believe Catholic Charities when they tell you that they have this all covered and that their system works. They don't. And the system DOES NOT WORK!**

When I found her birth mom we also discovered that she had been patiently waiting for her daughter to come to her all these years because she had been falsely assured that her contact info would be given to her birth daughter when she became an adult. And so she waited, wrongly assuming that her birth daughter was fully apprised of who she was but was not interested in contacting her. She had idea that she had been lied to when she relinquished her baby girl and that her name was never going to be given to her daughter. Which, obviously, it never was. Such needless pain and heartache. Such abuse of power. Such lies. FIVE MILES and Catholic Charity could not find her!! The system today does not work!

Because of DNA, mother and daughter had a wonderful reunion and literally spoke to each other daily right up until the moment that her birth mother suddenly died barely 13 months later. They had 13 precious months together which they would never have had because of the current state laws and Catholic Charities incompetency.

SB 972 will, at long last, stop this abuse.

It is a basic human right to know the truth about one's origins. Our state government should no longer discriminate against adoptees by depriving them of this right which is routinely available to all non-adopted citizens. This information assists adoptees in obtaining their current, updated family medical history which is necessary to protect their health and the health of their children.

Please support SB 972.

Best,

John F. Suggs
Founder and President
Family Orchard, LLC
1177 High Ridge Road Suite 136
Stamford, CT
06905

203.273.2774

JSuggs@Family-Orchard.Com

WWW.Family-Orchard.Com

Follow Me on Facebook! www.facebook.com/www.familyorchard