

I ask you to support and pass SB 113 which would restore the right of ALL adopted people, their children and grandchildren, to obtain their original birth certificates. Prior to 1975, adopted people could obtain their original birth certificates in Connecticut. Let's restore that right and build upon the law passed in 2014 that has been successful.

I am a first mother who relinquished my right to parent my daughter in 1968. I was never promised confidentiality and it wasn't considered lifelong banishment, just the loss of the right to be her mother. The reality for adoptees is that they have two sets of parents. Outdated law discriminates against this minority who are not criminals and have done nothing wrong. They happened to be adopted because other people made a contract which altered their lives. What's so horrible about being adopted that those who are cannot have their original birth records?

My daughter went home with her new family within a month. Until her adoption was final, the only birth certificate that existed was her original that named me as her mother. So, any supposed or imagined confidentiality could not be enforced during that year-long period when only the original birth certificate existed.

If adoptees or birth parents want to obtain the original birth certificate to search for the other, then they should have that right. If the person contacted does not want to be contacted again, he or she only needs to say so. We all have the right to decline to form a relationship with anyone. That is the same way we would handle any new person who comes into our lives—invite them in or send them away. Adopted people, and first parents too, have no desire to intrude where they're not wanted. These are people who have rejection and loss as some of their core emotions—they often expect rejection. They are not going to repeatedly put themselves in a position to be rejected over and over again.

My daughter and I have been in reunion since 1986 and are happily very much a part of each other's lives. Yet neither of us can have her original birth certificate. We are the two people named on it. To whom does it belong if not to us? And what right should another adult have to tell us we cannot have it?

A birth certificate is not a certificate of "ownership." We don't own people in this country today. Whatever happens after the birth should not result in the secrecy and sealing of the original and accurate birth certificate and the creation of a false birth certificate. In what other circumstance are people required to lie on a legal document?

The law sealing any original birth certificate is a travesty and discriminates against specific people in a specific time period who had no say in a "contract" arranged by others but involving a major life change for them. We should bend over backward to give them access to all information involving them, including their real birth certificates.

Adopted people are not criminals who have had rights taken from them. They do not deserve discrimination. Every other person can obtain his or her original birth certificate, including those adoptees who happen to live in enlightened states or were lucky enough to be born in "acceptable" years. Withholding original birth certificates from an adopted individual is wrong on every level.

Please pass SB 113 to restore the right of ALL adult adoptees born in Connecticut to have full and timely access to their original birth certificates.

Respectfully,
Gretchen Anderson

elderdaughter@gmail.com