

Dear Sirs,

I am a natural mother of a child, from forced adoption in 1968. Confidentiality was never mentioned to me.

I was taken out of state, sequestered with a Catholic family, made to cook, clean and babysit for them.

Drugged in labor to not recall the birth, tied hand and foot to the labor bed, not allowed to see or hold my son, taken by Jesuit Thomas Halley.

I immediately tried to find my son, but the Catholic Church denied they knew anything. 46 years of calls, searching, private investigators. I even took out ads in the Omaha World Herald and registered with multiple sites. In April 2015 my son found me and it has been glorious for us, including his father, Harold. Our son, Tom, is Harold's only son. Harold was hit in the head by rocket shrapnel as a combat medic in 1969 and has been in assisted living since.

My son found me when he saw an article about Ohio opening pre adoption certificates, typed in his birthdate and place of birth, and my name came up first on a google search from a registry I had joined.

Further, on my demand, the Church began an investigation, and I found by using search engines, I connected to other mothers, adoptees, and adoptive parents connected to Fr. Halley. One adoptee had a court document

where Halley had signed as being part of the adoption. Basically, Halley had been running black and grey market adoptions, taking women out of state, for two decades.

The Church conceded his involvement.

Confidentiality only hide his crimes. My son was given to his good friends, family of the VP of Union Pacific Railroad and Director of Union Pacific Foundation, giving hundreds of thousands to the same Jesuits.

We have a great relationship with my son, who got to meet his siblings, cousins, grandfather, etc. We met his adoptive parents, who have done a wonderful job, lovingly raising my son.

I will never be able to restore the 46 lost years with my son, but only by uniting as an adult, have I had the peace that he is well, the joy of attending my granddaughters wedding.

I have never met a natural mother who was promised confidentiality. It serves no one ( adoptee or natural parent), except for abusers of adoption practices.

I highly support this bill, and ask Connecticut to join other states who have done the same.

Regards,

Kathleen Chafin

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Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device