

RE: Connecticut S.B. 313

I am Linda Clausen, a birthmother who relinquished two children in the 60's, and reunited with them in 1990 and 1991.

Sadly, my youngest son who found me in 1990, passed in 2016, after injuries from a fall. We had 26 years of reunion. I know in my heart that his finding me was healing for both of us. He was able to get a copy of his original Birth Certificate (OBC) after he found me. I know it meant a lot to him to have a copy of his original OBC .

I have worked as a Foster Care Social Worker, and completed many adoptions. I have facilitated a support group for adult adoptees and birthparents since 1992. I have heard from so many adoptees in this group, and also from attending many post-adoption national conferences. Adoptees talk about their feelings about being the only US citizens not allowed to have that piece of paper in their hand. Why should adoptees be separated from other U.S. citizens, as everyone else has this piece of paper?

Every person who is adopted should be able, if they wish, to know and/or meet their original parents. There are many ways to do that now. With DNA testing accessible, and many trained genealogists available, there are many more reunions lately. **But getting the OBC is about so much more than finding birthparents.** More importantly than meeting birthparents it is the right of every person, including adopted individuals, to have a copy of their original birth certificate. Having access to the OBC is closing the gap between the adoptee and every other citizen in the U.S . A birth certificate is issued for every person born. But for adopted individuals, they do not get a copy of their original certificate. What they DO get is a piece of paper equal to "Fake News," which is spoken about a lot lately. On the Birth Certificate given to an adoptee it is currently stated that THEIR ADOPTIVE PARENTS HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO THE CHILD. THIS IS AN UNTRUTH. Why did those before us think that this lie should perpetuate? WHY an out-and-out lie should on the Birth Certificate issued for a new baby; this baby must start his life with a lie on the most important piece of paper connecting him to his life. And this amended birth certificate is what he must look at for the rest of his life, if the adoptive parents have told the adoptee that he/she is adopted .

Before my son found me I had no idea what the adopted person received. Once I learned, and processed this information, it made no sense to me. I hope YOU will think about this!!!