

My name is Carol Goodyear and an ardent and passionate supporter of the right of adult adoptees to access their original birth certificates. In 2014, a law was passed that allowed access to original birth certificates to 20,000 adult adoptees in CT.

This law does not apply me as I was born prior to October 1, 1983.

I had looked for my biological mother for the better part of 40 years. I paid thousands of dollars to Catholic Charities, did many searches on my own, combed the Internet at every opportunity and finally did the DNA test, 23andme, in 2013. My adoptive parents supported my search and gave me the Probate Court documents that finalized my adoption when I turned 30 years old. On September 27, 2015, I became in reunion with my biological mother through a first cousin match on 23andme. My biological mother, Pat, is 87 years old, in good health and lives in New Hampshire. She never married. To say becoming in reunion after all of these years is a miracle is an understatement. It was the single most life changing event of both of our lives.

Pat never asked for privacy or confidentiality. She simply had me, left McCook Hospital, in Hartford, and boarded a bus back to her home town in Massachusetts without a single piece of paper that even validated that she had given birth. And even if Pat wanted confidentiality, which she didn't, access to original birth certificates was legal until 1975 so I could have gotten my original birth certificate anyway as long as I was of legal age.

Pat and I celebrated our first Mother's Day together in 60 years in 2016. She and I travel together and communicate regularly. We complete each other.

However, my testimony is not about reunion and it is not about biological medical history. Adoptees are more able than ever to get their biological medical history by doing relatively inexpensive DNA testing. This information can reveal a lot about potential health and well-being. In fact, the biological medical history in my DNA test was corroborated when I became in reunion with Pat and more currently from the family of my biological father who died in 1960. And thanks to DNA, families are becoming in reunion without original birth certificates each and every day.

My testimony is about my right to access my original birth certificate, a right that every non adopted citizen of CT and adult adoptees covered under the current law enjoys.

In CT, it is not legal to use a fraudulent motor vehicle license. I don't know how it can be legal to use a fraudulent birth certificate. We are adults and the government should not be in the business of keeping truthful and factual information from us. I'm not a fraud and my birth certificate should not be either.

Thank you,

Carol Goodyear

West Hartford, CT