

I am a birthmother who lost her son to adoption in 1969. From day one of my child's life, I never indicated that I did not want to hear from my son one day. In fact, over the years I tried to find him by researching public records with no success and went back to the adoption agency that handled the adoption, met with a social worker there and left notice in my file that in the event that my son was trying to find me, that I wanted the adoption agency to release contact information to him about how to reach me. I also joined the Florida adoption registry, putting my contact information there as well so that if he joined the registry, we would be able to find each other. I did everything I could think of to try to make a way to be able to reunite with my son. In my opinion, this is how most mothers who've lost their children to adoption feel. We were never told that our children would be unable to find us; instead, we were told that our relationship to our children was forever severed by adoption and we were never to contact them. Instead, the rhetoric of adoption has turned things around to give the false idea that birthmothers expected anonymity. This is opposite from what's really true. There is no rational reason to keep birth records inaccessible to adoptees. Keeping records sealed is not helping anyone.

Please open up birth records to adoptees. Please don't allow an archaic, outdated law to prevent those adults who've been adopted from being able to have access to their own birth records, something that every other American takes for granted. The Declaration of Independence says that all men are created equal. If that's what we live by then the right for adoptees to have access to their own birth records is long overdue.

Sincerely,

Betty Holden
321 62nd Avenue NE
St. Petersburg, FL. 33702