

My father is an adoptee who was born in CT in 1949. We were able to find his real birth mother without acquiring his original birth certificate. We wrote her a letter and although she responded saying she'd prefer not to be contacted again, we were happy to know she existed and that she got to see a photo of my father and our family, and also that she knew that her decision was a great one and that my father is happy.

I am now trying to seek Irish citizenship through descent from my father's birth mother. Existing laws have prevented me from doing this for 10 years. I had to wait until my father's birth mother passed away last December. The vital records office couldn't even send in the birth certificate on our behalf, even though we already knew all of the information that was on it.

The existing law is restrictive for the wrong reasons, and doesn't even prevent adoptees from discovering who their birth parents are. It should be changed.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Dea