

Testimony to permit Original Birth Certificate access

Born Kyle House in 1970 to a single mother in college, I was relinquished as a days-old infant in a private adoption to a lower-middle class family and renamed Andrew Tash. Raised in an abusive, alcoholic family I often wondered "what's wrong with me?"

I am what is referred to as a "Late Discovery Adoptee" since my adoptive parents never told me that I was adopted. I found out, inadvertently, when I was 35 with five children of my own from my marriage.

I fully support access to birth records and original birth certificates because my adoptive parents never shared my history with me. My discovery was particularly disturbing in that as a teenager, I had some health issues that required months of visits to doctors, rounds of x-rays, and no shortage of anxiety. Every new visit meant I had to fill out MY "family medical history" and every time I thought the doctors were getting a picture of my genetic profile based on history, they weren't.

My adoptive parents never corrected my forms, as that might indicate they had to acknowledge that I wasn't genetically related. In my own case, the doctors eventually found the answers to that issue, and I haven't had any recurrence, but upon discovering my adoption and meeting my birth family, I found out my maternal grandfather died at 46 from a heart related condition.

If a doctor were to behave as my adoptive parents did, it would be tantamount to malpractice. This hardly seems a healthy or health conscious decision. Adopted person should, once they reach the age of majority, have their records. They need access to their own vital information.