



ACCESS CONNECTICUT

ACCESS CONNECTICUT is a grassroots effort dedicated to passing legislation that will restore the human right for adult adoptees, born in Connecticut access to their original birth certificate (OBC). Members of **ACCESS CONNECTICUT** believe that Connecticut adoptees have been denied the human right that all other residents of Connecticut have – the right to obtain a non-certified copy of their original, unamended birth certificate from vital records. Adoptees had the right to obtain copies of their OBC until the Connecticut legislature unjustly removed that right in 1975.

Results from a survey performed by the Center for Survey Research & Analysis at the University of Connecticut indicate that more than four in five Connecticut residents (85%) and 82% of Connecticut's registered voters would support a law that would allow adult adopted children to obtain copies of their original birth certificate. **ACCESS CONNECTICUT** believes it's time for the Connecticut legislature to listen to their constituents and restore the human right for Connecticut born adult adoptees to obtain copies of their original birth certificates.

Legislation similar to that supported by **ACCESS CONNECTICUT** has precedence in a number of states. Most recently New Hampshire (2005), Maine (2007) and Rhode Island (2011) have passed legislation restoring the right for adult adoptees born in their states to obtain a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate. In these states over 400 legislators, nearly 70% of their legislators voted in favor of restoring the human right to its native born adult adoptees to obtain their OBC. New Hampshire became the 5th state, Maine the 6th state and Rhode Island the 7th state in the U.S. to allow all its adult adoptees to access their original birth certificate along with Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, and Oregon.

ACCESS CONNECTICUT recommends the following legislation become law which respects the rights of adult adoptees to obtain their original birth certificate as well as respecting the rights of birth parents to express their desire for contact from their biological children.

At the age of 18 adoptees can request a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate by filling out a Preadoption Birth Record Application Form and send it to the Vital Records Office. The new law will allow a birth parent to fill out a Contact Preference Form to express their desire for contact with their biological child in one of the following three ways:

- I would like to be contacted
- I would like to be contacted but through an intermediary of my choosing, i.e. the placing agency, personal friend, etc.
- I do not want to be contacted.

ACCESS CONNECTICUT is actively looking for new members across the State of Connecticut who is willing to work to change Connecticut's adoption law to allow adult adoptees to access their original birth certificate. If this is legislation you would like to support please contact Jane Servadio, a birth mother from Milford CT, at 203-874-2023 or janerino@optonline.net or Eileen McQuade, a birthmother from South Windsor, CT at 561-279-7714 or eileen2155@gmail.com or Carolyn Goodridge, an adoption professional, 860-258-3400 or at Carolyn.goodridge@cafap.com, or Paul Schibbelhute, a birthfather, at 603 -930-2091 or at pschibbe@aol.com

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