

## Story of Interest: Michigan Not Releasing Original Birth Certificate to Adult Adoptee

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Cc: AdlerA@michigan.gov, HeatonA@michigan.gov, BiehlL@michigan.gov

Dear Members of the Michigan Media:

The State of Michigan's adoption bureaucracy has refused to give me (a proud Detroit native) my original birth certificate and would not discuss the fact that I already found my birth family 26 years ago. The fact that I already have all my other identity documents, my original birth name, and know my biological families was irrelevant to the state when I requested my original birth record.

I was basically told on the phone by the Central Adoption Registry to have my birth mother "fill out the damn form" even though I have known my birth mother for more than a quarter century, as well as all both sides of my biological family.

**I simply want what is mine: My original identity document.** I already had my mother fill out a release form in 1989, after we met each other, and the state and adoption agency released my adoption paperwork, my medical records, and my identifying information. Somehow then and now they claim my Birth Certificate can't be released. This is something that is, logically, insane.

This reveals the absolutely lack of reason or leadership or even the ability to understand state laws and the intent of laws. I won't go into the long and detailed analysis how broken our country's adoptions laws are (2/3rds of all states still refuse to give adoptees like me our identity documents and legally discriminate against millions of Americans who are treated as less than equals).

So, I have decided to not engage in bureaucratic ping pong, which happened between 1987 and 1989, when state, judicial, and social service agencies did all they could to prevent me from finding my birth family. I found them in 1989, not because of any official help from anyone in these sectors, but *despite* of them. I was treated often as someone with a "problem" or a child--and no one really seemed to care. Luckily, my birth family members were still alive, and my grandparents in particular could meet their grandson before both could pass away.

I've attached a few of the forms I'm mailing the to the head of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Rick Lyon (I have intentionally blacked out my adoptive mother's SSN--that is confidential information). **I told him I would be copying all of you, so he was aware I was trying to have this issue be in the spotlight of the day, not kicked down to a lower-level underling to ignore.**

I am mailing documents on Monday to state offices (certified mail to Director Lyon). I am copying Gov. Snyder's press office (here as well--all three members of his media team), who will get a copy of the letter you are receiving too. I want them to be aware of this as well. There is now an official record of this communication having occurred and the Governor's office being made aware of this matter.

You can also read my essay on how Michigan's and other state's legal discrimination continues to impact hundreds of thousands of adoptees who are denied what they are entitled to as a human right:

equal treatment under the law.

**<http://iwonderandwander.rudfoto.com/2016/01/15/how-legalized-discrimination-against-adoptees-and-birth-parents-took-root-in-post-war-america/>**

Here's where you can read the state's convoluted laws, especially the section that treats me as a class of citizens denied equal treatment under the law (birth year 1965).

- <http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-8566---F,00.html> (FAQs)
- [http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-8319\\_8566-16914--00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-8319_8566-16914--00.html) (discrimination against people born in adoption boom years like me)
- [http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\\_7116\\_7125-14884--00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7116_7125-14884--00.html) (how Michigan discriminates against adoptees based on year of birth)

And, here's how England does it: half a page, simple instructions that are easy to follow: if you're 18 and adopted, you get your records. End of story. That's a civilized country. <https://www.gov.uk/adoption-records/accessing-your-birth-records>.

#### **SECTION EDITED OUT FROM COPY**

This is simply an issue between me, as a native of Detroit, Michigan, asking for what is mine as a person and citizen. Nothing more. It should take less than an hour to do.

You may call or write anytime. Thanks for your consideration of this possibly worthwhile news story that would be interest to your readers and the wider public.

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