

Rudy Owens, MA, MPH
[ADDRESS, TEL, EMAIL ALL EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY]

July 1, 2016

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: Vital Records Requests
PO Box 30721
Lansing MI 48909

**Re: Original Birth Certificate for Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens (myself)
Court Order Requiring Release of Original Birth Certificate for Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens**

Dear Vital Records: The Michigan Third Circuit Court has issued a court order, signed by the Honorable Judge Richard Dingell, on June 17, 2016. Now that the order has been signed and petition approved, as required by Michigan adoption statutes (Section 710.68), and that a consent to release identifying information to me has long been in the possession of this Department (since 1989, see copy), please provide me through rush service a certified copy of my **original** birth certificate. Here is the relevant birth and adopted family data:

- **Petitioner Current Name:** Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens (legal name as of October 2009)
- **Name at Birth:** Scott Douglas Owens (name that is on my original birth certificate)
- **Name on Amended Birth Certificate:** Martin Rudolf Brueggemann (the one given to me after I was adopted)
- **Adopted Mother Name:** [EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY]
- **Adopted Father Name:** [EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY]
- **Birth Mother:** [EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY]
- **Birth Father:** [EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY]
- **Date and Place of Birth:** [EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY]

With the exception of the court order signed by Judge Dingell, your office already has most of these documents, but I will provide them again. Attached, please find:

- Signed and original Court Order, Third Judicial Circuit Court, Hon. Judge Christopher Dingell, ordering the department to “*issue a copy of the original seal birth record in regards to Scott Douglass [sic] Owens (birth name, birth date, [EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY] and release a certified copy of the sealed birth record to Martin Rudolf Brueggemann, now know as Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens (legal name change, birth date: [EDITED OUT IN THIS COPY].*” [Note, my middle name at birth is actually spelled “Douglas”.]
- Copy of Petition for Adoption Information and Order, File No. A-32, 094, ordering “*petitioner to receive copy of sealed original live birth certificate,*” and signed by the Hon. Judge Christopher Dingell. [Note, the court indicated a copy of this is sufficient.]
- Copy of my current driver’s license.
- Signed *Application for a Certified Copy—Michigan Birth Record* (for my **ORIGINAL** birth certificate).
- Check in the amount of \$46.00 (\$34.00 for processing fee, \$12.00 rush service).
- My revised Michigan birth certificate issued to me after I legally changed my name in 2009 (note, my legal now includes part of my original birth name).
- My court order, which changed my legal name from my old adopted name of Martin Rudolf Brueggemann to Rudolf Scott-Douglas Owens.
- Copy of my amended birth certificate showing my adopted name (Martin Rudolf Brueggemann).
- Copy of Notice of Release of Identifying Information, from Lutheran Child and Family Services to the Michigan Department of Public Health, Office of Vital and Health Statistics, **acknowledging that identifying information can be released to me** (at the time when I had the legal name Martin Rudolf Brueggemann), signed by Jean Creech, April 20, 1989.

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- Copy of Letter from Probate Court, Wayne County, acknowledging receipt of notice from the Adoption Central Registry regarding consent to release identifying birth information filed by my birth mother on April 21, 1989.

In addition, I am providing two statements from senior DHHS managers obtained through a Michigan Freedom of Information Act request. Both make unequivocally clear in my case that my original birth certificate is to be released by court order. Attached please see copies of the emails released by the MI Department of Health and Human Service FOIA Coordinator, pertaining to discussions about my request for my original birth certificate—these both are public records accessible to anyone in the public through your states open records laws:

- Email from Deputy State Registrar Tamara Weaver to State Registrar Glenn Copeland, dated March 22, 2016, stating that my record can be released with the appropriate court order—and that court order is now attached.
- Email from Catherine Hoover, Guardianship & Permanency Program Manager at DHHS, to Steve Yager, Executive Director DHHS Children's Services Agency, stating my record can be released with the appropriate court order—again, that court order is now attached.

When I called your office this month, I was told rush service would take no more than three weeks of service time.

You may call if you have questions. Regarding the court order, your contact at the Michigan Third Circuit Court is Thomas Fuentes, Esq. I will be copying him as a professional courtesy with this letter. If this is truly necessary and you seek to question the veracity of this official court order from the 3rd Circuit Court/Honorable Judge Dingell, he can be reached at:

Thomas D. Fuentes, Esq., Adoptions Coordinator
Third Judicial Circuit Court—Juvenile Division
Lincoln Hall of Justice, 1025 E. Forest Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207-1098
(p) 313.833.1962
(f) 313.833.7033
Thomas.Fuentes@3rdcc.org

I look forward to seeing my original birth certificate in the three-weeks processing time your staff indicated would be needed. Thanks for your courtesy and attention.

Sincerely,

Rudy Owens, MA, MPH
CC: Legal Records, Thomas Fuentes (Esq.)
Certified Mail