



Rudolf Owens <rudysdownens@gmail.com>

Follow up to call to you re question about Gov. Snyder's/State's position on Adoption Policy

Rudolf Owens <rudysdownens@gmail.com>

Tue, Jul 26, 2016 at 10:29 PM

To: "Biehl, Laura (GOV)" <BiehlL@michigan.gov>

Cc: Rudolf Owens <rudysdownens@gmail.com>

Ms. Biehl: Thanks for the courtesy of your reply to my request for comment from Gov. Snyder and his administration concerning the issue of adoption law in Michigan and the treatment of those born in Michigan who are adoptees and impacted by state law. To recap:

I provided your office four specific questions on July 22, 2016. For the record, those questions again were:

- Does Gov. Rick Snyder support the right of adult adoptees born in Michigan to have access to their original birth records without interference or restrictions like any non-adopted person, based on year of birth?
- Does Gov. Rick Snyder believe that Michigan state law, Section 710.68 (probate code) for thousands of Michiganders born between May 28, 1945 or on or after September 12, 1980, provides equal treatment under the law to those Michiganders? The statute is cited by state agencies managed by the Governor as grounds to deny requests for original birth documents such as a birth certificate, without a court order. Does the Governor believe it is fair to treat a class of Michiganders in a way differently by law, when those persons have no criminal background?
- Does Governor Snyder believe that all persons born in Michigan have the right to receive equal treatment under the U.S. Constitution and state law regarding access to an essential government service--their original vital records?
- Has Governor Snyder made any public statement concerning legislative reforms in other states such as Oregon concerning the rights of adult adoptees to access original birth records?

In your written reply to me sent on July 27, 2016, your office, on behalf of the Gov. Snyder administration, did not or refused to answer these questions. In particular, your office refused to answer a question whether all persons born in Michigan have the right to receive equal treatment under the U.S. Constitution and state law regarding access to an essential government service: their original vital records. You did state, for the record, "The Governor does not have a position regarding adoption records in Michigan so I am unable to answer your questions." If I have provided an inaccurate summary of our communication, please advise.

I am greatly disappointed that your office on behalf of Gov. Snyder has chosen to not answer questions about one of the most common forms of family union in Michigan and in the United States ([U.S. Census Bureau estimates at last count](#) put the number of adoptees under 18 [a fraction of all adoptees] at about 1.5 million). It is equally disappointing that the Governor's office is not answering a question if an adult adoptee has the right to their original birth records without interference.

As you are also familiar, the Governor and departments at the behest of the Governor can always introduce request legislation that can be considered by your state legislature to change state laws, and the Governor too can choose to advocate on behalf of all Michiganders, if that is the wish of the Governor. The Governor and citizens can be advocates for change and reform. It is a choice and a question of leadership.

As a courtesy to you, I am including one of the copies of emails I have from my FOIA request concerning the Governor's office handling of my cci'ng his media team. It would appear my CC'd communication to you was most definitely of interest as a communication topic, given it was sent to the Communications Director for one of the largest state agencies. I do not think ordinary constituent emails get routed to communications chiefs like that. I would think most communications professionals would agree with that assessment.

As I noted to you in a previous communication, it remains my intention to communicate about adoption policy and state adoption law in Michigan in the public eye, and I have never intended to have this dialogue in private. You can expect to see at least one article in the next several days on the blog I shared with you before, as I am waiting still on other comments from parties who refused to provide oral comments on the state's adoption rules impacting thousands of persons born in the great state of Michigan. Best regards.

--

Rudy Owens, MA, MPH
1208 SE Nehalem St, Portland, OR 97202
503 232 3170 Tel
206 696 3740 Cell
rudysdownens@gmail.com
Web: www.rudyowens.com
Photo/Video Blog: http://whatbeautifullight.com
Policy/Ideas Blog: http://iwonderandwander.rudyfoto.com

[Quoted text hidden]

From: Rudy Owens [mailto:rudyowens@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:48 PM
To: 'Biehl, Michael' <Michael.Biehl@mdhhs.mn.gov>
Subject: Re: Question - Minnesota Air Accessing Engaged Air Conflicts in Adult Airports

The group you belong to and subject you are discussing appear to be related to one of the 2 underlying parts of the email and not the other. Please see the following information.

Re: Biehl, Michael

From: Rudy Owens
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 12:48 PM
To: 'Biehl, Michael' <Michael.Biehl@mdhhs.mn.gov>
Subject: Re: Question - Minnesota Air Accessing Engaged Air Conflicts in Adult Airports

Dear Members of the Michigan Media

The State of Michigan's Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has received my original letter and would like to know the best way to already track my work today. It was sent to you last week.

Biehl Email to MDHHS Comms Team Re Rudy Owens.tiff
128K

Always scan all any other identity information, or original text, and have my biological transfer me
confirmation to the state when I request my original text work.