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## **Adoptees Can Now Request Birth Certificates**

Posted on [November 15, 2011](#)

For the first time, adults who were adopted in Illinois can receive copies of their original birth certificates. For State Representative Sara Feigenholtz, this was a personal issue. She sponsored the legislation giving access to the documents. Feigenholtz, a Chicago Democrat, was adopted. While she later met her birth mother, she plans to submit a request for her birth certificate to the Illinois Department of Public Health. FEIGENHOLTZ “I think it’s human nature to want to know your history and know from whence you came. It’s a basic human right.”

But one Feigenholtz says has been denied generations of adopted individuals. An estimated 250-thousand people adopted in Illinois since 1946 are eligible to apply for birth certificates. There is a small processing fee. Birth parents who prefer to remain anonymous must file a special form. However, they can still provide family medical information in a confidential manner.