

Letter: New law for Illinois adoptees

By Anonymous

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Every year, families and adoption advocates across the country recognize National Adoption Day to celebrate adoptive families and the joys, gifts and love that come with adoption.

This year, Illinois-born adoptees have more to celebrate. National Adoption Day falls on Nov. 19 — just four days after adult adopted people born in Illinois were given the right to do something we have been denied all of our lives: apply for a copy of our original birth certificates.

To many, a birth certificate may just be a piece of paper that serves only practical purposes. To adoptees, it's the key to understanding our original identity.

As an adoptee, legislator, and advocate, I have known many adopted people. Some have reunited with birth families and others have no desire to search for fear of rejection. Some have adopted children of their own. Some have spent their entire lives wanting to know their identity, while others only learned of their adopted status as older adults.

On Nov. 19, I won't just be celebrating my adoption; I'll be waiting for that envelope with my birth certificate to arrive in the mail.

For more information on the new law, I encourage readers to visit [NewIllinoisAdoptionLaw.com](#).

— Sara Feigenholtz, Chicago, state representative, 12th District