



8,000 Illinois Adults Get Birth Certificate for 1st Time

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(Chicago) –On the first anniversary of a new Illinois law that allows adult adoptees to secure their original birth certificates without a court order, new statistics from the Illinois Department of Public Health reveal that 7,726 adults have been issued their birth certificate.

“This law allows adopted adults to obtain a non-certified copy of their original birth certificates and review important personal information, helping them learn more about their birth families,” said State Rep. **Sara Feigenholtz** (D-Chicago), an adoptee, and the sponsor of the law. “I’m thrilled by the response in the first year.”

The law, PA 096-089, signed by Governor **Pat Quinn** on May 21, 2010, initially allowed only adults born prior to 1946 to apply for their birth certificate. The law’s second phase, starting on November 15, 2011, now allows all adult adoptee, unless birth parents file a written objection, to apply for a copy of their birth certificate.

Under the prior state law, adult adoptees encountered legal obstacles to access to their original birth certificate because securing a copy of the document often required a court order.

Birth parents of post-1946 adoptees can request that their names not be released during their lifetime or can indicate their wishes regarding contact with their surrendered children by signing up with the Illinois Adoption Registry and Medical Information Exchange

Since January 2010, when Feigenholtz filed the original legislation for the new law, only 453 birth parents or 5.8% have requested anonymity, Feigenholtz noted.

“The response of the birth parents, who have registered with the state, has been overwhelming and positive,” said Feigenholtz, who applied and received her birth certificate. “Nearly 95% of these birth parents have opted for some degree of transparency with their surrendered children.”

Adopted persons over the age of 21 who wish to request a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate must complete a simple request form; mail it to the Illinois Department Public Health in Springfield; include a \$15 check or money order and a copy of a government-issued driver’s license or identification.

For further statistical information or instructions for obtaining a non-certified copy of an original birth certificate or, if you are a birth parent, indicating an interest in contact or a desire to remain anonymous to a birth child, please visit: www.newillinoisadoptionlaw.com.

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