



RESTORE OHIO ADOPTEE RIGHTS IN 2013!



**Adoption
Equity
Ohio**

www.AdoptionEquityOhio.org



www.AdoptionNetwork.org

Common Myths

MYTH: Birthparents were promised anonymity at the time of adoption.



FACT: There were no legal promises of anonymity made. Ohio has never sealed records upon birthparent relinquishment, only upon adoption – a child can be relinquished but not adopted. And, under Ohio law, adoptive parents can choose not to have their child's birth certificate amended which would result in the birthparent's name staying on the birth certificate. A review of relinquishment forms birthparents signed in Ohio and across the country has not yielded even one form that addresses the privacy of the birthparent. Ohio government should not be involved in maintaining a "promise" that it never made.

MYTH: Adoptees need their original birth certificate to conduct a search for their birthparent(s).



FACT: Access to records for adoptees is not about search. Adoptees can and often do search with or without access to their birth certificate and adoption decree. Access to these documents is about the fundamental right to knowing core facts about oneself, and enjoying the same rights and privileges as other citizens.

MYTH: If the records are "opened" who knows who might see them.



FACT: What is proposed is that the adult adoptee, and only the adult adoptee, would be able to confidentially access their own original birth certificate upon request. No records would be open to the public in any way.

MYTH: The records are closed because birthparents don't want to be found.



FACT: Birthparents from the era in question, 1964-1996, were not offered openness at the time of the adoption. Adoptions were set up as "closed" because that was the only option offered, not because birthparents requested it. Studies and experience show that 95% or more of birthparents accept contact by their adult child. Birthparents who do not wish to meet their children can indicate that on the proposed Contact Preference Form (CPF). In states that have implemented the CPF, many more birthparents use it to express desire for contact, than for no contact. In fact in these states an average of 1 in 2,000 eligible birthparents request not to be contacted.