

ADULT ADOPTEE ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE ACCESS  
HOUSE BILL 5428 AMENDMENT TO  
ILLINOIS PUBLIC ACT 096-0895

ADOPTees

As of May 21, 2010, adult adoptees born in Illinois in **1945 or earlier** can complete and file with the IL Adoption Registry a request for a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate. The fee is \$15.00.

If the adoptee is deceased, a surviving spouse or adult child may make a request.

Beginning November 15, 2011, any adult adopted or surrendered person born in Illinois on or after January 1, 1946 who is 21 years of age may file with the IL Adoption Registry a request for a non-certified copy of the original birth certificate. The fee is \$15.00.

If the adopted or surrendered person is deceased, the surviving spouse or children may make the request.

BIRTH PARENTS

The delay in the ability to file a request is to allow a publicity campaign to take place so that birth parents can file with the IL Adoption Registry and declare a preference regarding the sharing of their identifying information that would appear on the original birth certificate. Birth parents would have to file their preferences separately. Once a preference is filed, the birth parent can change the preference at any time by submitting a new Birth Parent Preference form.

Beginning January 1, 2011, the birth parents can file a Birth Parent Preference form that has five options in registering their preference: (Prior to January 1, 2011, birth parents can file the present Adoption Registry forms.)

1. giving permission to provide identifying information revealed on the original birth certificate to the adoptee, stating he/she would welcome direct contact, and providing current contact information to the adoptee
2. giving permission to provide identifying information revealed on the original birth certificate to the adoptee, stating he/she would welcome contact, but would prefer to be contacted through a person the birth parent names on the form
3. giving permission to provide identifying information revealed on the original birth certificate to the adoptee, stating he/she would welcome contact, but prefers to be contacted through the Illinois Confidential Intermediary program or the agency that handled the adoption
4. giving permission to provide identifying information revealed on the original birth certificate to the adoptee but that the birth parent does not want contact

5. prohibit the release of the first and last name of the birth parent, last known address, last name of the adoptee if the same as the birth parent and do not wish to be contacted by the adult adoptee

This option does provide that the birth parent agrees that the adoptee may request a Confidential Intermediary contact the birth parent for updated medical information and/or confirm the birth parent's desire to remain anonymous once **five years have elapsed**. The birth parent can name a person the Confidential Intermediary can contact in five years to facilitate contact with the birth parent or agree that the CI can contact them directly.

If this option is selected by the birth parent, a non-certified copy of the original birth certificate will still be provided to the adoptee but with the name and address of the birth parent removed.

The birth parent selecting this option may voluntarily provide the following information for the adoptee:

age at adoptee's birth, race, height, body type, hair color, eye color, religion, ethnic background, educational level, occupation, hobbies, interests, talent, type of relationship with the other birth parent, and the number of other birth children still living

After January 1, 2011, birth parents must file a Birth Parent Preference form in addition to an Illinois Registry Denial of Information Exchange form to prevent the original birth certificate being released WITH identifying information.

A copy of the Birth Parent Preference form will also be sent to the adoptee with the original birth certificate. The name of the birth parent will be removed if Option E (#5) was selected.

All denials of the sharing of identifying information expire with the death of the birth parent. Proof of death must be provided to the Adoption Registry.

**IMPORTANT:** If no Birth Parent Preference Form is filed, then the original birth certificate will be sent to the adoptee with the identifying information included.

Contact: IL Department of Public Health  
Office of Vital Records  
925 Ridgely Ave.  
Springfield IL 62702  
877-323-5299  
[www.idph.state.il.us/vitalrecords/index.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/vitalrecords/index.htm)