



Subject: Rhode Island Vital Records Office to Provide Information for Adult Adoptees to Request Their Original Birth Certificates

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, February 27, 2012— As the result of Governor Lincoln Chafee signing into law Senate Bill 0478-SUB A, Rhode Island born adult adoptees, 25 years of age or older, will be able to obtain a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate (OBC) beginning Monday, July 2nd, 2012.

Senate Bill 0478-SUB A, which passed unanimously in both the Rhode Island House and Senate, is legislation that balances the rights of adoptees to receive their OBC while allowing birth parents to indicate their desire for contact by their birth son or daughter. The **contact preference option** allows birth parents three options for contact with their biological child as follows:

1. I would like to be contacted.
2. I do not want to be contacted
3. I would like to be contacted through an intermediary

The new law also allows birth parents to provide updated medical information to their biological child by filling out a **Birth Parent Medical History Form**.

On March 1st, 2012 the Rhode Island Vital Records Office (RIVRO) is scheduled to update their website providing information for adult adoptees on how they can apply for a white copy of their original birth record and what to expect. Three options will be provided for adult adoptees in obtaining their original birth certificate (OBC) as follows:

1. Mail in request prior to 7/2/12 and OBC will be mailed back on starting 7/2/12.
2. Mail in request prior to 7/2/12 and designate "will pick up" at State Office on the request form and OBC will be available on 7/2/12 or later for pick up.
3. Come in person on or after 7/2/12.

The Rhode Island Vital Records Office would like to encourage adoptees to use option one followed by option two - as both would reduce any wait time in the lobby.

Since September 1st, 2011 the RIVRO has provided information to birth parents on how they can submit **Contact Preference Forms** with the State Office and/or medical history forms with the Rhode Island Family Court's Voluntary Adoption Reunion Registry. Birth parents and adoptees can go to the RIVRO website for all forms and procedures at the following link:

<http://www.health.ri.gov/records/for/adultadoptees/index.php>

ACCESS RHODE ISLAND is a grassroots effort dedicated to passing legislation allowing adult adoptees born in Rhode Island to access to their original birth certificates (OBC). Since July 1st **ACCESS RHODE ISLAND** has been supporting the Rhode Island Vital Records Office (RIVRO) to help publicize the passing of this legislation by implementing a local, regional and national campaign to bring awareness to birth mothers and adoptees across the country. If you would like further information about the new law or **ACCESS RHODE ISLAND** please contact Christine Miller, an adoptee at 401-365-7264 or birches75@yahoo.com. Nancy Horgan, a birth mother at 401-363-6253 or n.horgan@cox.net or Kara Foley, an adoptee at 401-465-0023 or riadoptee@gmail.com or Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, an adoptive parent at 401-727-8982 or Drdaycare@drdaycare.com

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