

Adoption Reform Illinois

ATTN: NEWS EDITOR

December 17, 2008



Santa Advisory

What adult adoptees want for Christmas is their original birth certificates

- WHO:** Santa's elves (Adoption Reform Illinois, a coalition of adoption reform advocates)
- WHAT:** Letters to Santa from triad members requesting his help in obtaining Illinois adoptees' original birth certificates will be delivered to the Department of Public Health.
- WHERE:** Vital Records, 605 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL
- WHEN:** December 19, 10:30 a.m.
- WHY:** Adopted adults in Illinois cannot access their original birth certificates, a right all other Illinois natives take for granted. AFI member organizations work to recover the right of people everywhere to have access to their original birth records, upon demand, unaltered and free from falsification.

Background

Upon judicial finalization of adoption, all adoptees' original birth documents are sealed in perpetuity. According to the Illinois Adoption Act, the only recourse for an adopted man or woman is to go to court and petition for the original birth certificate. [750 IL CS 50/18].

Adoption Reform Illinois was formed early in 2008 in response to a series of disappointing legislative attempts to create multiple classes of adoptees, some of whom would be denied access to information about their own identity. Member organizations of ARI oppose substituting mandated mutual consent registries or intermediary systems in place of fully open records and do not support any other system that assures anything less than access on demand to the adopted adult, without compromise and without qualification. (For an explanation of the difficulties with conditional legislation see <http://www.bastards.org/documents/conditional.html>.)

ARI member organizations urges the Illinois Legislature to pass a law that would put all adopted men and women on a par with all other citizens with regard to access of original birth documents.

For more information or to arrange a telephone interview with Santa:

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