

How Senate Bill, No. 63 Impacts Adoptees Access to Their Original Birth Certificates?

As of January 1, 2008, the law regulating the release of original birth certificates to adoptees has been amended. An adoptee over the age of 18, who is **born prior to July 17, 1974, or after January 1, 2008**, now can request and receive a copy of their original birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Massachusetts. An adoptive parent can request a copy of their child's original birth certificate if their child is under the age of 18, and born after January 1, 2008. An adoptee would be able to find on their original birth certificate their birth mother's name, age and address at the time of their birth. Rarely are the birth father's name listed.

The law also establishes a registry which at a minimum is capable of recording updated addresses and other information supplied by parents and adoptees for one to contact the other. This registry is entirely voluntary.

The law does not impact the laws of confidentiality that adoption agencies are bound by.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics is located at 150 Mt. Vernon Street, in Dorchester, Massachusetts. One can request their original birth certificate by mail, or go in person to pick one up. The Bureau's phone number is 617-740-2600, and their web address is www.mass.gov/dph/. To access the form on-line, make sure you search for "adoptee's original birth certificate".