

## Were birth parents promised confidentiality?

Opponents of access to original birth certificates claim that birth/first/original parents were promised confidentiality and that passage of these bills would break that promise. In reality, birth parents' identities could never be fully protected.

- Original birth certificates are not altered until the time of adoption; if there is no adoption, identifying information about original parents who relinquished parental rights, or whose rights were terminated, remains unsealed and accessible.
- Adoptive parents are not required to have their child's birth certificate amended.
- An adopted person can petition the court to get his or her identifying information.
- Many adoptees have used the Internet to search and have found their birth parents.
- Not one surrender document (in Massachusetts or any other state) has ever been produced that indicates that birth parents were promised confidentiality.
- Birth parents who relinquished their children before 1974 clearly knew identifying information would be available to their adopted child when they turned 18 years of age.

## Would H.1892 and S.1267 open adoption records?

No. The bills pending in Massachusetts simply allow all adopted persons equal access to their original birth certificates, regardless of the years of their birth.

Amendment to M.G.L. Chapter 210, which governs access to adoption records, is not proposed in these bills.

## What do you say to people who think there's a connection between access to birth certificates and rates of abortions?

Any claim that access to birth certificates results in increased abortions is false. In fact, in states that allow adoptees to access their birth certificates, the abortion rate is generally lower than the national average, while adoption rates are higher.

## How can I find more information about H.1892 and S.1267?

Please visit Access Massachusetts's website at [www.OCforMA.org](http://www.OCforMA.org), Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/OBCforMA](http://www.Facebook.com/OBCforMA), or contact us via e-mail at [OBCforMA@gmail.com](mailto:OBCforMA@gmail.com).

## Who supports access to original birth certificate legislation?





## Access Massachusetts

is a grassroots effort dedicated to passing legislation that will restore the **human right** for all adopted persons to have access to their original birth certificates (OBCs).

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Why do we need to amend MA law?

It is human right to have a record of one's birth.

Current Massachusetts law denies this basic human right to adopted persons born in Massachusetts between July 17, 1974 and January 1, 2008.

Adopted persons born in the "gap years" should have the same human right as all other people born in Massachusetts.

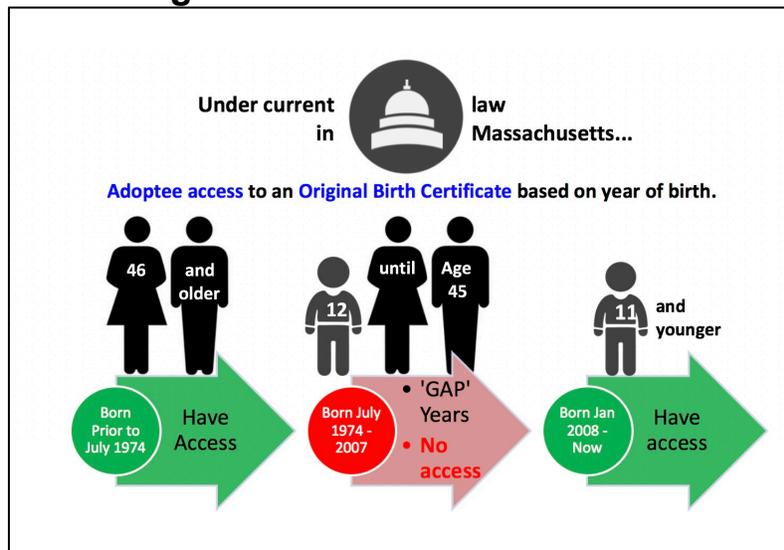
H.1892 and S.1267 – now pending in the MA legislature – would right this wrong.

### Don't adopted people have birth certificates?

Yes, but their birth certificates are amended at the time of adoption. The names of the birth/first/original parents are deleted, and replaced by the name(s) of adoptive parent(s).

The adopted person's original name is deleted, and replaced with the name chosen by the adoptive family.

### Who has access to their original birth certificates under current MA law?



Contact Access Massachusetts: website: [www.OBCforMA.org](http://www.OBCforMA.org)  
Email: [OBCforMA@gmail.com](mailto:OBCforMA@gmail.com), Facebook.com/OBCforMA, Twitter: @OBCforMA

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