



National Adoption Center[®]

There are no unwanted children...just unfound families

Open Records Policy

The Adoption Center believes that it is an inalienable right of all citizens, including adopted adults, to have unencumbered access to their original birth certificates. In keeping with this position, we believe that copies of both the original and the amended birth certificate should be given to the adoptive family at the time of finalization unless specifically denied by the birthparents. In any case, **the Adoption Center advocates that the adoptee, at age 18, be granted access to his/her original birth certificate.**

The Adoption Center also supports an adult adoptee's unencumbered access to all medical and historical records.* These records should be given to adopting families prior to finalization.

Approved by the Board of Directors - June 15, 2000

*Historical records refer to that information acquired about the child before coming into his/her final adoption placement. Such information includes, but is not limited to, foster care placements, childhood photos, information about siblings, number of moves before adoption, reason for entering foster care, details of school history and related school documents and any early history of development which may include pertinent medical records.

Available at <http://adopt.org/our-policies#Open>