

# Missouri Adoptee Rights Act

## Information for Adoptees

On July 1, 2016, Governor Nixon signed House Bill 1599 providing adult adoptees born in Missouri with the opportunity to obtain a non-certified copy of their original birth certificate.

### **When can adoptees obtain copies of their original birth certificate?**

An adoptee born before 1941 may request a copy of his or her original birth certificate beginning August 28, 2016.

Adoptees born in or after 1941 may request a copy of his or her original birth certificate beginning January 1, 2018. Applications for original birth certificates for adoptees born during or after 1941 will not be accepted at this time and will be returned to the applicant.

### **How can adoptees request their original birth certificate?**

To make a request, an adoptee shall complete the Application for Non-Certified Copy of an Original Birth Certificate form and pay a non-refundable \$15 fee. The application form is available on the website at [www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov).

### **Can adoptees appear in person to obtain their original birth certificate?**

Adoptees born prior to 1941 may submit applications in person at the Bureau of Vital Records office in Jefferson City. The department must identify, request and retrieve the original birth record before a copy can be issued. Copies of original birth certificates may not be available on the same day requested. Original copies of Missouri vital records, including birth certificates, are stored offsite at a secure, environmentally controlled facility to preserve these important documents. The department will make every effort to provide eligible applicants the requested documents as quickly as possible.

Applications for the original birth certificate may also be mailed to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Vital Records. Please review the application form for the address, fees and other information that will be required of the applicant.

### **Can anyone other than the adoptee request a copy of the original birth certificate?**

Yes, the Missouri Adoptee Rights Act allows an adopted person's attorney to request a copy of the original birth certificate.

### **Can a family member of the adoptee request a copy of the original birth certificate for genealogy purposes?**

No, the Missouri Adoptee Rights Act only allows an adoptee or the adoptee's attorney to request the original birth certificate.

### **What will the applicant for the original birth certificate receive?**

An authorized applicant may receive a non-certified copy of the original birth certificate that is on file with the Bureau of Vital Records if the record can be located based on the information supplied by the applicant.

The preference selected by the birth parent determines what the applicant will receive:

The Department shall not issue a copy of the original birth certificate to the applicant when:

- The applicant does not meet the requirements of section 193.125, RSMo and 19 CSR 10-10.130; or
- Both birth parents have filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that they prefer not to be contacted or prefer contact through an intermediary.

The Department shall issue a non-certified, unredacted copy of the original birth certificate stamped “For genealogical purposes only—not to be used for establishing identity” upon request to a qualified applicant when:

- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and neither birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form;
- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and both birth parents have filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted;
- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and one (1) parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted and the other parent has not filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form;
- The original birth certificate only lists one (1) parent and that parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted; or
- The original birth certificate only lists one (1) parent and that parent has not filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form.

The Department shall issue a non-certified copy of the original birth certificate stamped “For genealogical purposes only—not to be used for establishing identity” to the applicant with the identifying information redacted for the birth parent who indicated they preferred not to be contacted or preferred to be contacted through an intermediary when:

- The original birth certificate only lists one (1) parent and that birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers not to be contacted or prefers contact by an intermediary;
- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and one (1) birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers not to be contacted or prefers contact through an intermediary and the other parent has not filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form; or

- The original birth certificate lists two (2) parents and one (1) birth parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers not to be contacted or prefers contact through an intermediary and the other parent has filed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form indicating that he/she prefers to be contacted.

**What happens if the original birth certificate cannot be located?**

If the Department cannot locate the original birth certificate, the Department will issue to the applicant a written statement that no record was found.

**Can adoptees receive copies of their birth parents' vital records, such as birth, marriage or death certificates?**

No, they cannot.

**Can the original birth certificate be amended?**

No, it cannot.

**Where can I locate a copy of the law?**

The Missouri Adoptee Rights Act can be found here:

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills161/billpdf/truly/HB1599T.PDF>.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES  
BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS

**APPLICATION FOR NON-CERTIFIED COPY OF AN  
ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

P.O. Box 570  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0570  
Telephone: (573) 751-6378

Only the adoptee or the adoptee's attorney may request a copy of the adoptee's original (prior to adoption) birth certificate. Applicants may mail the required application with payment or submit it in our office in Jefferson City. A copy of an original birth certificate for adoptees born in Missouri cannot be ordered online.

Adoptees born prior to 1941 may request a copy of the original birth certificate beginning August 28, 2016. Beginning January 1, 2018, adoptees born in or after 1941 may request a copy of their original birth certificate. Information may be redacted depending on whether the birth parent(s) completed a Birth Parent Contact Preference Form. A Birth Parent Contact Preference Form and/or a Birth Parent Medical History Form may also be released if completed forms have been submitted by the birth parent(s).

The following information is needed in order to find and match your application with Bureau of Vital Records files. Please provide as much accurate information as you can to avoid delays and increase the likelihood of being able to process this application. The Bureau of Vital Records will notify you if no record is found.

**A NON-REFUNDABLE SEARCH FEE OF \$15 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.** Make check or money order payable to: **Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.** Mail to: Bureau of Vital Records, P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570.

**PLEASE PRINT**

The following information will be used to identify the adoptee's record:

FULL NAME OF CHILD ON ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE (IF KNOWN)			
DATE OF BIRTH		MISSOURI CITY AND COUNTY WHERE BORN	
BIRTH MOTHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE) (IF KNOWN)			
BIRTH FATHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE) (IF KNOWN)			
FULL NAME OF CHILD AFTER ADOPTION			
DATE OF ADOPTION (IF KNOWN)		PLACE OF ADOPTION (IF KNOWN)	
ADOPTIVE MOTHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE)			
ADOPTIVE FATHER/PARENT NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST NAME PRIOR TO FIRST MARRIAGE)			
APPLICANT'S NAME		RELATIONSHIP TO ADOPTEE <input type="checkbox"/> Self <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney for Adoptee	
MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER			
I _____, subject to the penalty of perjury, do solemnly declare and affirm that I am eligible to receive a noncertified copy of the original birth certificate requested above and that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.			
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT			DATE
NOTARY PUBLIC EMBOSSEER SEAL	STATE		COUNTY
	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME, THIS		<b>USE RUBBER STAMP IN CLEAR AREA BELOW.</b>
	DAY OF	YEAR	
	NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE		MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
NOTARY PUBLIC NAME (TYPED OR PRINTED)			