

# Indiana Adoption Network News

*Building Connections for Adoptees & Their Families*

July 2016

First Edition; Volume 2



[www.indianaadoptionnetwork.org](http://www.indianaadoptionnetwork.org)

## From the Desk of Pam Kroskie, President

I've had some time to sit down and think the past few weeks about my story about search and reunion and how so much changes in the blink of an eye. As all of you work on your reunions or your connections remember to take time and enjoy what you are experiencing-this time will pass very quickly. Please feel free to contact me: [PamIndianaAdoptionNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:PamIndianaAdoptionNetwork@gmail.com)

## Membership:

Hi! I am Laura, your Membership Director. I am here for any QUESTIONS you may have, along with being a Supporter in your adoption journey. I feel very honored to be a part of this organization and committed to growing our membership. As an Adoptee, I know firsthand the importance of staying connected to others for support, encouragement, resources and guidance! Whether you are a Birth/First Parent, and Adoptee or an Adoptive Parent, there is something here for you through Membership. With our variety of selections, we're sure you will find one that is right for you.

**Please JOIN us for one of our upcoming EVENTS and learn how we are Changing the Hearts and Minds of Hoosiers through Adoption Education!**

## Upcoming Events:

**SPRING CONFERENCE – April 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

**Monroe County Convention Center**

**302 S College Avenue**

**Bloomington, IN 47403**

**Accommodations: Courtyard by Marriott, 310 S, College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47403**



**Blog Talk Radio** Join our President, Pam Kroskie where you can listen to archived & upcoming podcasts, including an interview with our V.P. Marcie, a reunited mom, and subscribe to listen to live interviews.

[www.blogtalkradio.com/indianaadoptionnetworknews](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/indianaadoptionnetworknews)

## Feature Story: How Sealed Records Laws can Impact your Ability to Travel

by Jennifer Fahlsing, Adoptee & Reunited First Mother



The general public is not aware that something as ordinary as a vacation can be difficult for an Adoptee. Two years ago, I wanted to get a passport for a vacation not realizing how difficult the process would be.

My excitement for our vacation quickly dissipated as I sat down to complete the Passport Application and came to the startling realization that I did not have the required Primary Evidence of U.S. Citizenship.

### Primary Evidence of U.S. Citizenship:

- Previously issued, undamaged, and fully valid U.S. Passport
- Certified U.S. [birth certificate](#)  
(must meet all of the following requirements)
  - Issued by the City, County, or State of birth
  - Lists bearer's full name, date of birth, and place of birth
  - Lists parent(s) full names
  - Has date filed with registrar's office (*must be within one year of birth*)
  - Has registrar's signature
  - Has embossed, impressed, or multicolored seal of registrar
- [Consular Report of Birth Abroad or Certification of Birth](#)
- Naturalization Certificate
- Certificate of Citizenship

A quick call to the State Department number on the application introduced me to the post 9/11

### [Homeland Security Act of 2002.](#)

The customer service representative retrieved the regulations for **adopted applicants** and told me I would need to provide one of the following:

- (1) My OBC: I told him I live in Indiana, a sealed records state, and could not provide that document.
- (2) My ABC plus Adoption Decree **showing my biological parents names** and that the adoption was finalized before my first birthday. I told him I could provide the ABC, but my adoption was not finalized until I was 13 months old and my first mothers name is redacted.
- (3) As an alternative; I could provide a combination of a statement/interview by two elder **blood relatives**; affidavit by the doctor who delivered me; and other various documents prior to my fifth birthday such as school records, baptismal certificate, family bible, etc.

My one surviving adoptive parent did not remember any details of my adoption 50 years ago nor did they know what had happened to my adoption decree. I spent months gathering documents, petitioning courts, and in the process finally after decades of searching located and reunited with my biological mother.

A non-adopted individual will submit a **birth certificate as proof of US citizenship** and in no time at all will receive their Passport in the mail.

The Amended Birth Certificate is not considered valid proof of US citizenship and often the passport authorities will tell an adoptee to file for their Original Birth Certificate. Yet, the majority of adoptees are still legally denied access to their OBC due to sealed records laws.

2016 marks the beginning of the rolling implementation of the next travel hurdle for an adoptee that does not have a Passport.

The **Real ID Act of 2005** impacts domestic air travel by requiring a **Secure ID** or Passport. Once again the issuance of a delayed, after the 1<sup>st</sup> birthday, birth certificate does not meet the criteria.

The entire process took so long that sadly we missed the deadline to book our vacation.

Months later I received a call from the State Department where they asked questions pertaining to the date of finalization and then finally told me I would be approved but was cautioned to not let my passport expire.

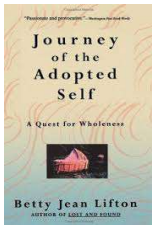
**Why should any adoptee have to go through this lengthy/costly process and struggle with the conflicting regulations put forth by their own government to go on a vacation?**

## **We want to hear from you!**

Please submit your articles, stories or poems to [MarcieIndianaAdoptionNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:MarcieIndianaAdoptionNetwork@gmail.com) for consideration in an upcoming issue of Indiana Adoption Network News.



## **The Book Shelf: July's suggested Reading**



**Looking for something to read this summer?**

**Journey of the Adopted Self** by Betty Jean Lifton

## **In the Next issue:**

**August Feature Story Finding Uncle Boo**

by Susan Gosselin, Reunited Adoptee

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**“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning,  
but anyone can start today and make a new ending.”**

**~Maria Robinson**