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Moss, Barbara

From: Della Shores [angelstweety@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:09 AM
To: Moss, Barbara
Cc: Jean adoption
Subject: Open Records for adoptees in Nevada

Honorable Senators and members of the judiciary committee.

I am writing my report I gave to you on the insight of an adoptive mother's point of view last Friday, March 28th. As an adoptive mother, I do feel the adult adoptees do need and are entitled to their original birth certificates. The laws as they stand do allow a lot of openings for false information to the adoptees and the adoptive parents. As adoptive parents of two small baby boys, we were given some very false information. We were told our first son's birth mother was born in Scotland, and was half Scottish, and half Irish. She married a sailor and came stateside. We were told they were both 30, and the father and mother neither one really intended to have children, and he, our adopted child, was the first and would be the only child she would have. We were told the birth mother had other siblings, and they were 2 brother's over 6'5" tall, and a 6' tall sister. We were told when our son's became 21 until the age of 25, they could get their records to see without a court order. But that only they could do it, not us or the birth parents.

When my son turned 32, he decided he needed medical information, and would write for his non-ID. After almost 16 months of waiting, we got copies of his nonID. His son was already here by then, and had some medical problems due to

EXHIBIT T Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: 3-28-03 Page 1 of 5

4/2/2003

being hereditary. When we got the records, we were all floored!! His birth mother was NOT from Scotland, and was born in Tulsa, Ok. Now that alone was a big lie. Why? It wasn't that important at that time. Tulsa is such a long way from Scotland.

We also were told he had two other siblings, a half sister born in 1956, ten years before him, and a half sister born in 1965, 17 months before him. Why weren't we given the truth? We were also told his birth mother had only one sibling herself, and she was a half sister, and was 6' tall. Where's the two brothers??? It said she had been married once in 1965, but had divorced in 1967. She had lived with another man 4 years, and had had the next child out of wedlock. She was not married to my son's birth father. He was more of an accident, and the birth father didn't even know anything about him. She kept my son 2 days before calling the social services to relinquish him for adoption. She told them she could not bring another child into her home with her parents born out of wedlock. Those were the times. We only got one piece of truth, if you call it that, at the time we adopted him. You see, it was a better story we heard than the truth. It would get the child adopted out.

We didn't care about the out-of-wedlock birth. We expected that. We didn't care that there were other children kept by her. We just wanted our little baby to be OURS and happy. We didn't care that his birthmother was born in Tulsa instead of Scotland. Although I will agree, he did look like a leprechan with his strawberry blonde hair and pixie nose and pointed ears. His birthfather was a sailor. But that's where the truth stopped. It's just not fair to our son or us that we

T-2

were lied to.

We wouldn't have done any different than take him and love him. We were getting what we wanted, a baby!! A real sweet little baby boy.

Our second son came a little over a year later. He was such a sweet baby, too.

His mother was 16, so they told us, and the birth father was 18. Both were in high school and wanted to get college educations. No medical problems. They were of Swedish and Irish decent. Too young to get married.

That's all we got from them. Again it was all lies. The mother was 15. The father was 19. He was a biker, and a runaway from his home. Didn't even finish school. Again we were told our son could get into his birth records between the ages of 21 and 25, but only he could without court applications.

We find out his mother didn't want to give him up, and tried to keep him until she was threatened by her grandmother, and the social worker that she would be put on the streets with no help. She ask if she could name him. Yes. But we weren't told his name. We were told we had to pick a name for him.

She wanted to keep in contact with him and us if she could. We never even knew her name, or that she wanted contact. She was told they would keep her informed and she could write letters to his file for him. No letters she wrote were ever found in his files. He didn't know her name. He knew nothing about her. We knew nothing of the truth. He was such a problem child because he couldn't seem to bond with us. Love him we did, and still do. We'd not change out

T-3

minds today if we were offered him again. But, he had a piece of himself missing, and we couldn't seem to fill that hole. He was always told he was so special. His brother(not blood related) and he were our pride and joy. Nobody could convince him we didn't take him out of charity. He was never told he was charity, and he always felt his birth mother dumped him. She didn't, and we always told him we felt one day she would look for him because he was so special. She didn't want to give him up.

We found her about a year ago, without the original birth certificate. She always wondered where he was and if he was okey. She was told he was given her letters when he turned 21. He never received them. She was told to forget having a child and go on with her life. How could she when she was forced to give him up. She was told she had given all rights up when she gave him up for adoption. She never wanted that. When my son read her story and then found her, he said Mom, she was just a child herself. yes. And he has now filled that hole in his heart.

Medical releases for him from the adoption agency were bad teeth, nothing else. We have since found out his family had alcoholics in the family, anxiety attacks, heart attacks, and blood clots predominately hereditary. My son almost died from the blood clots, and the heart attacks they treated him for before they discovered his were anxiety attacks, not heart attacks. The medicine was killing him. He's been re-diagnosed now. Thank goodness. He IS an alcoholic. We could have helped him thru that much sooner if we'd known about it. We aren't drinkers, but we could have found out about alcoholism.

T-4

He has met his birth mother, and is quite happy with her. I haven't lost a son, I've gained a friend in his mother, and more family. I helped find her, and have no regrets. I am still helping my other son find his birth mother. But they both want their birthcertificates. They belong to them. Not us, nor the birthparents, but the ADULT adoptees. It's their history. It's their lives.

If and when we find his birth mother, we will welcome her into our family with open arms, and his two half sisters. IF that's what they want. We won't stalk them.

We respect their rights, as most adoptees will of their families. There are laws to protect the birth families. My youngest son's mother says she was NEVER promised secrecy. She didn't want it.

The misconception of the whole adoption open records is that the adopted CHILD will find their birth parents. They are no longer CHILDREN. THEY ARE ADULTS. And as most adults do, will act responsibly.

Please help them find a part of their lives. Please help them get what is rightfully theirs. Their ORIGINAL birthcertificate.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Della Shores

Adoptive mother

Member of California Open, Nevada Open, and Georgia Eagles.

Concerned citizen of civil rights.

T-5