

To whom it may concern:

I began my search for my birth families, medical history, ancestry, heritage Spring, 1986.

There was NO INTERNET; a long and arduous road. I am still looking for more of the truth after 29 years.

My official adoption search was from 1986 to 1991 with 2 of these 5 years searching, researching 8 hours a day.

I am a member of Truth Seekers in Adoption (search and support group).
(Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL - for 5 years, once a month, 3 hours per meeting).

My adoption was private between two labor relations attorneys, one in Pittsburgh, PA for my birth father and the other attorney in Chicago, IL represented my adopted parents. The Daily Law Bulletin does not have their names listed for my June 1954, Cook County adoption. I was advised this was because I was "abducted" from St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA by the labor relations attorney in Pittsburgh, PA.

I spent many years being lied to, asked by the late PA labor relations attorney's partner, "if \$20,000 passed my desk, then you could obtain your original birth certificate." I was warned by Truth Seekers in Adoption that many adoptees would be asked to pay large sums of money for their birth information only to receive nothing after they paid the money.

For one year, I corresponded with the woman whom my birth mother worked for until she finally agreed to see me. This woman, Sara, told me that my birthmother was deceased. She would not tell me how she died. I learned that Sara prevented my birth mother, Blanche Stein (maiden name), from seeing me before she died October 13, 1979. It took me from 1986 to 1991 to confirm the identity of my birthfather. He was also deceased. This woman yelled at me, "I HAD TO GET YOU OUT OF TOWN!!" as if it happened yesterday.

The PA Labor Relations Attorney "abducted" me out of St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA. It took longer as my late adoptive father told me this before he died January 3, 2001.

The typed letter addressed to my adoptive parents with the actual instructions stated they should:

1. Fly to Pittsburgh, PA from Chicago, IL.
2. Go to the PA Labor Relations Atty's office.
3. Pay him \$800.
4. Engage a cab and go a block away from the hospital.
5. Wait for the baby to be delivered to them.
6. Then take the air transporter bus back to the Pittsburgh Airport to fly home to Chicago, IL.
7. If there was a problem, they were instructed to go to stay over at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA.

I spent years working on obtaining my original birth certificate from PA Vital Statistics. In the late 1980's, I called PA Vital Statistics Newcastle, PA and spoke to Vince Galano(sp?). He saw my original PA birth certificate. Vince told me to guess what my first name was on this. I was not able to figure this out. This was very upsetting and most frustrating.

I spent many years to follow keeping up with the latest laws in Pennsylvania and IL for adoptees. I supported the IL adoptees when the IL original birth certificates were finally opened in November, 2011. IL State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz spent 14 years with founder of White Oak Foundation, Melisha Mitchell, working diligently for this to happen. Since I was born in Pittsburgh, PA and adopted in Chicago, IL (Cook County) June 1954, I was NOT able to obtain my original birth certificate due to it being at PA Vital Statistics in Newcastle, PA.

In 2011, I tried to find out if I had any adoption records in Orphan's Court, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA. This was at the direction of Private Investigator, Mike Kiger, www.missinginc.com, who was helping me from October 2010. Mr. Kiger was featured in the Chicago Tribune at that time regarding his expertise of helping adoptees as one of his main focus in his business. He has been doing this now for over 23 years. Again, I hit a brick wall. Leacy Brown, Orphan's Court, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA told me there were NO court records for me in the court records. This was quite upsetting to me to learn this. It was another block to finding legal papers concerning my adoption.

I also spent one year working on obtaining the Chicago, IL, Cook County, court records in 2011. This was so I could determine if my birth mother really SIGNED relinquishment papers. I was told that my birth mother did NOT want to give me up from the PA Labor Relations widow, Spring 1988. Her first words were, "I commend you for coming so far. It was a long and drawn out case. The mother did NOT want to give up the baby. My husband did this as a favor for the birth father and the family."

In 2011, I also attempted to obtain my PA original birth certificate. Act 101 states that if both birth parents are deceased, the adoptee is able to obtain their PA original birth certificate, with one glitch: The birth parents must sign a consent form. Both my birth parents are DECEASED. It is IMPOSSIBLE for my birth parents to SIGN any consent form.

I am supporting the PA 162 Bill by Rep. Kerry Benningoff's office to OPEN ALL PA ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES for adoptee at this time, January 2015 to present and because Act 101 does not allow for me to do so.

Update April 8, 2015:

I was advised by email this past week from Domenique Rainey that all my papers I sent to her attention are STILL at the legal department being reviewed for consideration.

I do not have any faith for me to receive my PA Original Birth Certificate under the ACT 101 parameters.

Since both my birth parents HAVE BEEN deceased for over many decades, it is IMPOSSIBLE for them to agree to sign a consent form.

Also, confidentiality does NOT apply to my birth circumstances since my birth parents are deceased.

ACT 101 is ineffective as it makes NO SENSE to even ASK an adoptee to OBTAIN consent forms from their deceased birth parents.

My friends, business associates, and my family doctor all believe that it is my birthright to have my PA Original Birth Certificate

They ALL find the confusing explanation of what ACT 101 states regarding obtaining it totally ridiculous. The manner in which ACT 101 was written is totally ineffective.

I also pray that this is the beginning of bringing PA 162 Bill to fruition for making it law for ALL PA adoptees to be able to receive their ORIGINAL Birth Certificate.

My personal birth information:

I was born December 1, 1953, St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA.

Birth Mother: Blanche Stein (b. 10/2/15 - d. 10/13/79 - Blanche S. Cohen- Montefiore Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA.)

Birth Father: John H. Harris (b. July 9, 1898 - d. 2/12/69- Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA.)

My birth mother, Blanche Stein, named me "Enid Stein" in St. Francis Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA. Both of us were discharged on December 8, 1953.

I had attended the Western PA Genealogy Meeting, Trinity Church, Pittsburgh, PA in Spring 1988 and met Judge Paul R. Zavarella. We all received Public Law 195 (P.L. 304 P. 66) that passed on June 29, 1953. This law was made possible I was told, by my birthfather to keep his anonymity to protect his high profile businesses in the sports and entertainment industry. My birth grandfather, John P. Harris, was a State Senator in PA. He passed away at the Senate Table, Harrisburg, PA. January 26, 1926.

I have spent the past 29 years searching, researching, flying back/forth to Pittsburgh, PA five times. My desire to have my ORIGINAL PA Birth Certificate is stronger than ever now.

I began the adoption search to obtain my medical history at the advice of Dr. Alan Charles. My husband then was born in Pittsburgh, PA also. We wanted to have a baby. Dr. Charles believed it was necessary to make sure that we were not related to one another.

I am supporting PA 162 Bill to open the original birth certificates for all PA adoptees.

My recent interview with Channel 19-Chicagoland area will be aired within this month to an audience of five million people. In this interview, I spoke about Act 101, PA 162 and the importance of this bill being passed into a law. I would like to see this happen sooner than later so that no other PA adoptee has to go through 29 years like I have to obtain what belongs to me.

With appreciation,

Ellen

Ellen Miller, Illinois resident, Pennsylvania born

Adopted name: Ellen Sue Balterman

Baby Girl Stein - named Enid Stein by my birth mother, Blanche Stein, in St. Francis Hospital Pittsburgh, PA (12/1/53 birthdate - both released from the hospital 12/8/53)