

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1039/SB0743

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am Sant'ea Taylor, an adoptee who did not find out that I was adopted until I was 13, by accident of course. My adoptive parents were not very helpful as they had promised to help me locate my family. When I turned 18 I started calling the Wicomico County Agency, Maryland Department of Archives and Baltimore Vital Statistics for my birth certificate. Every time I wrote or called in for a birth certificate it was told to me that my information was closed. I got married at the age of 24 and could only use my Notification of Birth with my immunization on the back to show that I was an orphan or adopted. I could not understand why a copy of my new birth certificate so that I could have traveled with my husband while he was in the Navy.

Down through the years I continued until I was 40 years old and that is when I first received my copy of the adopted parent birth certificate. I had been searching for years writing letters calling the Orphans Court in Wicomico County and just simply asking family members if they could recall any information about me. Finally, December 2019, I threw caution to the wind and took the DNA Ancestry Test, contacted the Department of Human Services in Baltimore, MD, Wicomico County DSS Agency and along with Agency on Exploited Children was able to finally connect the dots.

I now have a relationship with my biological father in Ohio. I do not have access to my OBC or files to be able to actually finalize what I have been told by the Department of Social Services concerning the foster care I was in or a receipt of an adoption. I was able to petition the Circuit Court for hearing with a date of February 27, 2020 at 9:00am to see if they will allow me access to my OBC along with information.

Adoptees should have a right to our heritage, family information and more. We need access to our OBC records.

Sant'ea Taylor  
Salisbury, Maryland  
athomesantea@gmail.com