

KIM'S STORY - 2017

I was adopted during my first year by relatives. As an adult (now almost 40) I decided for some very emotional reasons to fully embrace my origins, and I couldn't be happier with the choice. The dynamics of being an adopted child were not good on me. I grew up with issues and resentments but still got on with life, albeit with sadnesses I couldn't articulate and felt powerless to do anything about.

I recently decided to try to regain some control of my story. In short my correspondence with BD&M about my official records basically told me that I am forever bound by the legal fiction that my adoption has created. I am unable to acknowledge my real mother or father on any pertinent legal record - either birth, marriage, or at my eventual death. Even on my children's birth certificates the lie is continued into the next generation because their mother's birth name is recorded as the name forced on her by circumstances she had no say in.

Why is it so hard to allow adopted people to legally acknowledge their real family? Why must official records continue to perpetuate falsehood?

One of the reasons why I cannot legally acknowledge my origins is that my adoption details are closed, as if my birth at a certain place at a certain time to two certain people never happened. However, just because a record is closed doesn't mean that the truth is closed. In my life literally EVERYONE knows who my real parents and siblings are. I grew up with them. It has never been a secret to anyone, ever. I only want to formally acknowledge the truth.

I'm a grown woman now but I'm not even allowed to acknowledge my identity due to something that happened to me that I had no say in at the time.

Everything about who I am legally, from birth, is an absolute lie. The people named as my parents are not and I cringe at having to name one of them as such - it is torture. I just want to have the option of choosing to do away with the legal fiction and to be able to say officially on records: this is my mother. This is my father. I am their child.