

## FACT CHECK: FLORIDA'S HB357

An anonymous Facebook page is distributing misinformation about a pending Florida bill and what it will do for adult adoptees who seek access to copies of their original birth certificates. Because the “page” refuses to be transparent about its efforts and even blocks advocates who work to correct its frequent misstatements, we are providing a simple fact sheet to address and dispel the group’s many ongoing misrepresentations.

On the left is a statement made by the anonymous advocates as to when adoptees or others will receive a copy of the original birth certificate This is followed by whether that statement is **TRUE**, **FALSE**, OR **MOSTLY FALSE**, as well as a brief explanation as to how the bill actually works. Questions? Follow or join [Florida Adoption Initiative Reform on Facebook](#) for straight answers. Don’t follow groups who remain anonymous and thus refuse to make themselves accountable to you.

Claim to OBC Access and Timeframe	Fact Check	Explanation
Those adopted after July 1, 2018: receive OBC once they turn 18	<b>TRUE</b>	Adoptees who are at least 18 years of age and whose adoptions are finalized after July 1, 2018, have unrestricted access to their OBCs, beginning no later than July 2036.
Those adopted before July 1, 1977: OBC available immediately	<b>FALSE</b>	The bill provides no realistic mechanism for an adoptee in this group to obtain an OBC. The bill is instead so vague about pre-1977 adoptees that litigation will likely be needed to resolve the issue. Rather than provide access directly, the bill does nothing for Florida-born adoptees who were adopted <b>prior to July 1, 1977</b> .
Those adopted through foster care who already know their mother's name: OBC available at age 18	<b>MOSTLY FALSE</b>	This applies only to adoptees who were adopted <b>after June 30, 1977</b> , but <b>before July 1, 2018</b> . It also assumes that the “known name” matches the name of the birthparent listed on the original birth record. This is not always the case.

Those who find family through DNA or other types of search and learn their mother's name: OBC available at age 18	<b>MOSTLY FALSE</b>	See explanation above for foster care youth who were adopted, which applies as well to this case
Those who have a deceased birth parent: OBC available at age 18	<b>MOSTLY FALSE</b>	This provision applies only to the “middle tier” of adoptees: whose adoptions were finalized <b>after June 30, 1977</b> , but <b>before July 1, 2018</b> . Presumably, the state will require death certificates of a birth parent, something Florida already requires in cases involving a deceased birthparent.
Those who were adopted at least 40 years ago: may apply for the OBC beginning July 1, 2018	<b>MOSTLY FALSE</b>	This provision applies only to the “middle tier” of adoptees: whose adoptions were finalized <b>after June 30, 1977</b> , but <b>before July 1, 2018</b> . It also relies on the date of adoption, not birth, which means many adoptees in this group will be older---perhaps much older---than 40 years when they are finally able to request and obtain a copy of their OBCs.
Birth/first parents who signed the original birth certificate: may obtain the OBC beginning July 1, 2018	<b>FALSE</b>	A birthparent whose child was adopted <b>before June 30, 1977</b> , has no right to request and obtain a copy of the child's original birth certificate under this bill.
Adult descendants of adoptees: may obtain the OBC beginning July 1, 2018	<b>FALSE</b>	An adult descendant of a person who was adopted <b>before June 30, 1977</b> , has no right to request and obtain a copy of the descendant's original birth certificate under this bill. Adoptions <b>after June 30, 1977</b> , must meet the same requirements as an adult adoptee, which are not easily determined under the bill.

**Source/More Information:** [Adoptee Rights Law Center](#). **Organizations opposed to HB357:** Adoptee Rights Campaign, Adoption Rights Alliance (Ireland)/The Philomena Project, ALARM Network, American Adoption Congress, Banished Babies of Ireland, Bastard Nation: The Adoptee Rights Organization, Concerned United Birthparents, The Donaldson Adoption Institute, National Center on Adoption and Permanency, The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), Trace L. Hentz, Access Rhode Island, California Open, Canada Open, Equal Access Oklahoma, Equality for Adoptees, Florida Adoption Initiative for Reform, Indiana Open, Michigan Open, Minnesota Coalition for Adoption Reform, Missouri Open, Nevada Open, New York State Adoptee Equality, Post-Adoption Center for Education and Resources (PACER)