



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
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November 1, 2022

TO: Massachusetts City and Town Clerks
Boston Registrar

FROM: Karin Barrett
Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics

SUBJECT: An Act Granting Equal Access to Original Birth Certificates

Colleagues,

As noted in a previous correspondence, [Chapter 158 of the Acts of 2022](#) becomes effective November 3, 2022, which expands access to records of birth prior to adoption to all years of birth. Previously, such records were restricted to births occurring on or before July 14, 1974 and on or after January 1, 2008. Non-certified pre-adoption records may be requested through the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics (RVRS). Please refer your constituents to the RVRS web page which will be updated on or before November 3rd: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-pre-adoption-birth-record>.

AN ACT GRANTING EQUAL ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH
CERTIFICATES TO ALL PERSONS BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS
*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court
assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 2B of chapter 46 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 3 and 4, the words “on or before July 17, 1974 or on or after January 1, 2008”.

SECTION 2. Said section 2B of chapter 46, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 6, the words “on or after January 1, 2008”.

Approved, August 5, 2022.

Thank you for your continued collaboration with RVRS in promoting excellence in the Commonwealth’s vital records and statistics system.