

GARRETT J. GRANT
PRESIDING JUDGE
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Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
725 COURT STREET
P.O. BOX 911
MARTINEZ, CA 94553-0091



August 23, 2002

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Re: Petition for Unaltered Original Birth Record and Change of Name Request

Dear Ms. Baker:

California law, as you may know, is quite restrictive in permitting disclosure of birth record information in adoptions. In your case you based your request for disclosure on the fact that you are aware of and have a loving relationship with your birth parents. You further contend that it is your right to have your original birth record.

Unfortunately, a court may not order such disclosure unless the petitioner shows "good and compelling cause." This high burden is not easily met.

I appreciate how frustrating it can be to be unable to obtain your birth record, and I do not minimize the importance to you of obtaining it. Unfortunately, I do not believe that the high burden required for disclosure has been met.

As for your request for a name change, I suggest that you consult with an attorney, or at a minimum, a self help book, on how to accomplish this. It cannot be accomplished as part of this petition.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Garrett J. Grant".

GARRETT J. GRANT
Presiding Judge

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