

Testimony Presented to the Children, Youth and Families Subcommittee on Adoption
March 20, 2004 -- Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Las Vegas, Nevada
Speaker: Geoff McAlister -- 3217 Terra Bella Drive -- Las Vegas, NV 89108

I would like to tell you how information hidden in state and adoption agency files has hurt three generations of my family. My daughter, Krystal, is 12 years old. She is not adopted. I am not adopted. But my mother was adopted. And all our lives have been damaged by sealed adoption records.

One of the first questions the obstetrician asked was whether there was a history of birth defects in my family. I thought I knew. Just six months before, my brother's pregnant wife had gone with my mother to the adoption agency where my mother was born to ask for medical and genetic information. They were told that "there was no reason to think that a child would not be born healthy".

The court & adoption agency had a family history form that said that my mother had older siblings who had died of genetic heart defects, and records that my mother was kept in a hospital bed at the agency for almost 2 years because she was "blue and sickly". But we didn't know that until a judge unsealed my mother's adoption records when Krystal was 7 years old. By then, the damage was done.

When doctors know that a family has a history of genetic heart defects, they perform extra tests during pregnancy. And, more important, in families known to carry heart defects, newborns usually get an injection that can prevent strokes. Krystal did not get that \$27 preventative injection. As a result, she suffered her first stroke when she was only a few hours old.

The doctors couldn't prevent Krystal's heart defects, but they were able to fix them. The stroke could have been prevented, but the damage it left is permanent.



Photo of Krystal & Geoff McAlister (1995)
Information hidden in adoption agency and court files could have given us the information to prevent two strokes that left my daughter Krystal in need of feeding tubes & leg braces. No child should go through a lifetime of "being different" because vital medical information is hidden away in adoption files. And no family should face generations of genetic roulette due to sealed records. Please protect other Nevada children by opening records now.

EXHIBIT 1 ChildFam Adopt Document consists of 23 pages
 Entire document provided.
 Due to size limitations, pages ____ through ____ provided.
A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library
(775-684-6827 or e-mail library@icb.state.nv.us).
Meeting Date 3-20-04

My daughter's medical bills have totaled more than \$2.8 million dollars. Her leg braces need to be replaced every six months. She takes medicine 3 times a day to prevent future strokes. She needs physical and speech therapy. The damage from this preventable stroke will mean medical bills this year of at least \$12,500.

Krystal is the bravest, most beautiful person I know. It breaks my heart to see her putting on her leg brace every morning, struggling in school, and coping with the teasing she gets from children who make fun of way she walks. I can't begin to tell you how angry it makes me to know that the information hidden away in a sealed adoption record could have prevented all the pain my daughter has gone through.

Because my mother's adoption records were sealed, Krystal can't ride the roller coaster at New York, New York. She can't wear pretty sandals and high heels like her middle-school friends. She lives every day with the pain of being "different". This didn't have to happen. And it shouldn't have happened.

No child should have to go through Krystal's pain, or live with limitations because the government hides information that could have allowed doctors to prevent it. We finally learned the truth about my mother's birth family, so we were able to provide preventive care before her brothers were born.

There are thousands of families in Nevada who still don't know what is hidden away in adoption files. And that means more children may have to go through what Krystal has gone through because the information to prevent it is hidden from them. You can stop that by giving adult adoptees unrestricted access to their court and agency files, and I hope you will do so. Thank you.

Attachments:

Court Order to open Adoption File – 1 page

Court Docket Records – 2 pages

Order of Adoption & Court Record – 2 pages

Agency Treatment Sheets & Social History from Unsealed Files, with relevant sections highlighted

Death Certificate of a unnamed sibling born prior to Mother's adoption – 1 page

Written 9-10-53 by
Mary E. Kirkland

AVERY: MICHELLE
MOTHER: MRS. JANE P.

BABY: Michelle Avery was born at Florence Nightingale Hospital on the 3rd of June, 1953, by Caesarian section. Mother had been a patient in Baylor Clinic, and her pre-natal care under their supervision began about the first of May, 1953. Her laboratory tests at that time were negative.

MOTHER OF THE BABY: Mrs. Jane Pelph Avery stated that she was born on the 1st of April, 1926. On her first visit to Hope Cottage about a month before the birth of the baby, she told worker that she was born in Arcola, Illinois. Later, when furnishing information for the social history, she said she had been born in Hong Kong, China, while her parents were taking a round-the-world trip.

DESCRIPTION: Mother is about 5 ft. 5½ inches tall, and weighs about 118 pounds. She has very black hair and eyes and ivory skin which she said marked her French descent. Her clothing was becoming and of good quality. She was poised and composed in manner, alert and intelligent in conversation.

DEVELOPMENTAL: Mother stated that she was a normal baby, with no illnesses during her infancy. She talked at 11 mos., and walked at 13 months.

HEALTH: Mother had measles, mumps, and chicken-pox prior to going to school. Her tonsils were removed when she was two years of age. She was considered a delicate child, with a finicky appetite. After an emergency appendectomy when she was nine years of age her weight and appetite increased and she soon outgrew the delicate condition.

EDUCATION: Mother stated that she had attended grade school at a girl's academy. Her grades averaged 96.2 for that period. She made friends among the other girls, and the teachers liked her and were kind to her. She was graduated from public high school at age 15 as valedictorian. She had majored in a commercial course and put this knowledge into practice by working for a year immediately after her graduation as she was considered too young to attend a university. At 16 years of age she entered university, where she studied one year, and left to be married.

EMPLOYMENT: Mother has specialized in secretarial work. Most of her employment has been with government agencies, but while in Dallas she did temporary work for several firms through the auspices of the Skiles Employment Agency. Mrs. Byrd of that agency recommended her work highly, stating that she can do anything in an office, and that the only criticism was that she talked too much about her personal affairs.

PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOR: Mother is an intelligent, interesting person who impressed those who interviewed her as being very capable and efficient. She listed her recreation as including reading, music, travel, swimming, golf, tennis, and foot-ball games. She enlarged considerably on her musical interests, stating that her mother had been an internationally known concert pianist, and that she had splendid training in piano, and some skill on the violin. While she is apparently a straightforward person, and seemingly most co-operative, all the time she is really withholding some than she is admitting, and several discrepancies in her story, pieced together after several interviews, make it necessary to question the truthfulness of all she has told. In her first interview, before baby's birth, she stated that she was born in Arcola, Ill., and after baby's birth, the place of her birth was given as Hong Kong, China. She also stated that she and her second husband had a home in Washington, D. C. in which they entertained extensively, but the Washington Directories for the period of their marriage do not list them as residents. As she was leaving Dallas she told worker that she has

AVERY: MICHELLE
MOTHER: JANE

Addison's disease, which was discovered as the result of a physical examination which Braniff Airlines required when she applied there for office work. When other discrepancies in mother's story were discovered, worker checked with the Clinic and with Braniff regarding her case, and found that she never applied to Braniff, and therefore had never been seen in the Launey Altnic Clinic which Braniff uses for pre-employment exams. Worker then called Baylor Clinic where mother had been a patient, and found through Dr. Bone, head of the O.B. department, that when seen there she had no symptoms which would have suggested Addison's disease. All this adds up to the suspicion that mother was composing one of the short stories she claims to write.

PLANS FOR THE BABY: Before baby's birth and for 6 weeks afterward mother spoke only of plans to keep her baby. Her decision to release the baby for placement came unexpectedly, just a short while before she left Dallas to confer with her attorney in Oklahoma City before journeying to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore to become an experimental patient, so she said. She looked ill, and much grieved over having to leave the baby, but signed the papers unwaveringly.

MATERNAL ANTECEDENTS:

GRANDFATHER: Pelph was given as his surname on mother's first visit. She never identified him more specifically by name. Mother said he was French. He lost his business during the depression, but before that had spent the summers in travel with his family. He is said to have died in Chicago, Ill, in August, 1947.

GRANDMOTHER: She was also French, and reputed to be an internationally known concert pianist. Her training and influence are responsible for mother's musical abilities. She saw to it that mother began when she was 10 years of age to attend all the operas, until she has an extensive repertoire of classical music. Mother states that her mother was beautiful as well as talented; and was very religious, being a member of the Roman Catholic Church. She is said to have died from carcinoma at the age of 64, about 2 years ago. She was born in Lourdes, France and educated in Vienna.

SISTER OF MOTHER was five years her senior. She was also beautiful and talented. She had a soprano voice, and began singing in public when she was 16 years of age. She had a promising career with the St. Louis Municipal Opera. She also played the piano and pipe organ. She designed her own clothes. She was married young, but had no children. She and her husband enjoyed flying and had their own plane. They were killed in a plane crash in Pennsylvania in 1950.

MOTHER'S FIRST MARRIAGE: This took place before her 17th birth-day. She had met this man, who was 11 years her senior, during the first semester of her university course. He was an Army Intelligence Officer whose work took him to various countries. They went to live in Cristobal, Panama. Their son, Jacques, was born in 1944, after they had been transferred to South Carolina. This marriage ended in divorce in 1946. Mother felt that much of the failure of the marriage resulted from her youth and immaturity, and inability to understand how difficult was her husband's work, and how combined pressures caused her husband to seek the solace of other women. Their son died from a heart condition in 1948.

FATHER OF THE BABY: Jerome Maurice Avery, born the 7th of April, 1916, possibly in New Orleans, La. His father died of Pneumonia at age 43; his brother was killed in Marine action in 1943. His mother is still living, but remarried.

Jerry is 6 ft. 2 in. tall, and weighs 180 lbs. He is dark complected, has gray eyes and dark brown hair. He has a pleasing and gentlemanly manner, makes friends easily, and is very adaptable. He is quick-tempered, impulsive, and forgiving by nature. His greatest fault is that he is easily swayed. He has an excellent war record.

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SOCIAL HISTORY

PAGE 3.

AVERY: MICHELLE
MOTHER: JANE

FATHER OF THE BABY, continued.

He flew B-29's in the Pacific, and was discharged as a Lt. Colonel. He is a graduate physicist, and a true intellectual. His writing ability is excellent, and he is a passable artist, belonging to the Goya mode. Mrs. Avery says that basically he is a wonderful, brilliant person. He does not drink. Both gave up their Roman Catholic faith when they were married, because each of them had previously been married and divorced.

Mother stated on her first visit that she was in need of assistance because her husband had deserted her for another woman who had been a frequent guest in their home. She traced them to Chicago, but when she arrived they had just left for Dallas, where the woman's parents live. She followed them here, only to find that they had just left, and the woman's parents, of course, did not tell her where they had gone. They claimed here to be man and wife, and the woman's parents were most shocked to discover the true state of affairs. Mother's plan at that time was to wait for the birth of the baby, then sue him for divorce, and get the Court to protect the interests of her baby. After she had left town, an attempt was made to verify her marriage to this man which she said took place in Chicago, Ill., in January, 1949, but the County Clerk of Cook County, Ill could find no record of any such marriage, so it must be concluded that she was not married to him, and perhaps not at all.

Mary E. Kirkland

AVERY: MICHELLE

MOTHER: MRS. JEROME (JANE FELPH)

4-28-53. Mrs. Avery came to see Mrs. Carson by appointment at 3 p.m. She had been referred to Hope Cottage for assistance by some acquaintances in the Christian Science Church, since coming to Dallas from Washington, D. C. Mrs. Carson turned her over to worker for interview.

She stated that she was born in Arcola, Illinois, 4-1-26, and is now living at 647 North Tyler Street, YA 6496. She has been in Dallas for the past 4 months. Her baby is due about 6-1-53. After securing identifying data, worker called Miss Weaverling at F S, who made an appointment for her to be interviewed at F. S. tomorrow at 2 p.m.

During the downpour of rain that prevented her leaving the Cottage for half an hour, worker learned the following fantastic details concerning her. She is a college graduate, an expert secretary, and a free lance writer. She has had her own newspaper column, - breezy notes about service-men. Lately, when she needs the money, her stuff has all been returned. But while in Dallas she plans to do a story about Hope Cottage, which she thinks will be colorful. She was married previously, and lost her husband in World War II. Their 4 year old son died a short while before she married Mr. Avery in 1949. Her mother was ill with cancer at the time, and Mr. Avery was most considerate, endearing himself to them both by his loving attentions and financial help. He is a charming, intelligent person, makes an excellent salary, and provided a good home in Washington, D. C. where they did a lot of entertaining. Last year (date not given) Mrs. Avery lost a baby which had been born by Caesarian section. When she became pregnant this last time, her husband was much upset, and without her knowledge made all arrangements to have an illegal abortion. When she flatly refused on the ground that murder is murder even if accomplished by a specialist, he became furious. Next day she went to town on some business, and when she came home she found his clothing and personal effects had all disappeared, and hers were in ribbons. Five good suits and several "spares", also a new coat she had never worn were completely ruined. None of her friends knew where he was, and 2 weeks went by before his best friend came to her and advised her that he had been seeing an awful lot of a certain blond girl, with whom he had finally disappeared. She secured the services of a detective who traced them to Chicago. Putting friends into her home on which they promised to keep up the monthly payments, she followed them to Chicago, only to learn that they had left for Dallas, which is the home of the girl in question. So she came to Dallas, and called the home of the girl's parents. The girl's mother told her that the girl and her husband had left Dallas the week before. When Mrs. Avery asked for the address, the mother became very wary, and would not give it. She suggested that she call at their home to discuss an important matter, and permission was given. She told both parents the story, which caused them much distress as well as consternation, as they could not dream there had been no marriage. She also told them their daughter knew Mr. Avery was unmarried, as she had been in their home for cock-tail parties. Mrs. Avery said that she regrets having caused them such grief, and assured them that she will not make it difficult for the fleeing pair, but that after the baby's birth, she means to take the matter to Court, get a divorce, and see to it that her baby's rights are protected. Meanwhile, she is running short of funds, - she is now living off "her rings". Other jewels will have to go. She is tall, and very pale, and wears her very black hair in a long straight bob which is attention-getting, but not becoming. Her eyes are large and very dark brown. Her lipstick did not follow the lines of her lips, and worker doubts if this was an improvement. The altered shape gave her mouth a rather sensuous look. She expressed deep appreciation for the relief she experienced during the interview, and asked for other contacts.

Mary E. Kirkland

AVERY: MICHELLE

MOTHER: MRS. JEPOME (JANE PELPH)

5-6-53. Miss Weaverling called from F. S. to report that mother had kept her appointment at F. S. and had apparently been agreeable to getting a statement from her lawyer in Oklahoma City that every effort had been made to secure financial support from Mr. Avery, before F. S. would assume any financial responsibility. Knowing that her rent was due on 5-4-53, and she had professed that she had no money with which to pay the rent, Miss Weaverling expected to hear from her by that time. Miss Weaverling made an appointment for her to be interviewed by Mr. Campbell at Baylor Clinic. She told Mr. Campbell that she put in several long distance calls the evening after she talked with Miss Weaverling, and thought she would be able to borrow the money necessary to see her through. She had an appointment to see Mr. Campbell on 5-4-53, but Mr. C- is ill and Miss Weaverling does not know if she kept the appointment. Mary E. Kirkland

5-28-53. Mrs. Avery called worker, stating that she is to enter F.N.Hospital next week, and to have a Caesarian section performed next Wednesday, June 3. She said that Family Service does not have aid to married women as part of its program, but Baylor is extending credit to her with ample time in which to pay after she is well and at work again. She has moved, and now lives at 3305 Welborn, Apt.4.
Mary E. Kirkland

6-9-53. After call from Mrs. Brown in the F. N. office, worker went to F. N. Hospital and brought baby to Hope Cottage for admission. Worker saw mother while there. She looked unusually well and happy, and says she will be over later this week to H. C.
Mary E. Kirkland

6-12-53. Mother in by appointment to see baby. She left her present telephone number, JU 4817, listed in the name of Charles Reid, whose 1 yr. old son is being cared for through the day by mother, for \$10.00 a week. Mary E. Kirkland

6-15-53. Mother in by appointment, bringing with her an insurance man who needed to see the baby before completing details of issuing an endowment policy on baby. Mother will come some time the latter part of the week. Mary E. Kirkland

7-8-53. Mother called. She has been quite ill with summer flu, and still sounds as if she has a heavy cold, as she can scarcely speak. She felt it would not be wise to come to the Cottage, and worker thanked her for her consideration of the babies.
Mary E. Kirkland

8-7-53. Mother called, seemingly in real distress, and told worker she would have to discuss a serious matter to-day if possible. Worker suggested that she come at once, which she did, but as worker was the only staff member on duty for the hour and a half she was here, the interview was interrupted too many times to be satisfactory. She told worker that when she applied to Braniff Airlines for an office position, she was sent, routinely, for a physical examination. The doctor, who noticed some skin splotches on her face, told her that he would not be willing to give her a certificate of health without first giving her a basal metabolism test. This disclosed, as he had suspected, that she has Addison's disease, which will give her five more years of life at the outset. However, she feels that it will not be that long, as she already "passes out" unexpectedly, and for varying lengths of time, much to the consternation of strangers. She knows the only wise thing is to give Michelle up for adoption, so she signed releases while she was here, and took with her an outline to fill in for social history information which could not be taken to-day for lack of time as she is leaving tonight. Oklahoma City, where her lawyer resides. He is S. H. Russell, 1301 National Bank Bldg telephone REgent 6-8293 (collect if necessary). He is helping make arrangements for her to be an experimental patient at Johns Hopkins, in Maryland. She will write worker, whether to proceed without her husband's releases, or send them to her to get signed. MEK

VERY: MICHELLE

MOTHER: MRS. JEROME (JANE PELPH).

8-14-53. Mrs. Byrd, from the Skiles Employment Agency, called to ask worker if she knew where Mrs. Avery might be reached. She had been assisting with job placements, and wished to continue to help. She said she had been much impressed with mother's intelligence and ability, and that the only criticism on the part of employers to whom she had been sent was the fact that she discusses her personal problems too freely. She had not talked with Mrs. Avery since July 25, and was beginning to be anxious. Worker gave her the information that Mrs. Avery found that she is seriously ill, and has left town to seek treatments at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and try to straighten out her family affairs while she is near Washington. Mrs. Byrd seemed to manifest a genuine interest in mother, as in all her "girls", and is desirous of helping them all she possibly can. Her telephone number is RI 6716. Mary E. Kirkland

8-26-53. Letter out to mother. Copy in file. Mary E. Kirkland

9-9-53. Letter and social history information in from mother. Mary E. Kirkland

9-10-53. Letter out to County Clerk in Chicago, asking for verification of the marriage of mother and Jerome M. Avery. Mary E. Kirkland

9-11-53. Noticing the discrepancy in birth-dates mother gave for herself, - Arcola, Ill. the first time, and Hong Kong, China, the second time, worker began to probe a bit to verify what she could of suspected discrepancies.

Taking for instance the statement that she and Mr. Avery had lived in Washington, D. C., worker called the Dallas City Directory and asked them to check a listing for them between 1949 and now, but their latest directory is a 1948 one. The telephone company was next tried, but worker found that a personal visit would have to be made for the purpose of checking. Worker then called the Dallas Public Library, as they have a file of telephone directories. The directory they have, dated Dec. 1952, did not contain the name Jerome Avery, or Mrs. Jane Avery.

Worker also, remembering that she had stated that she discovered her illness during an examination for employment at Braniff Airways, found out that the Launey-Altnic Clinic on Inwood Road does these pre-employment exams for Braniff. Mrs. Jane Avery was unknown to them, and they checked with Braniff employment department, only to find that Mrs. Jane Avery had never applied to them for employment. (Dr. Gilbert talked with worker for the Launey Clinic.)

Worker then telephoned Baylor Clinic to inquire whether anything in her pre-natal exam had showed up which might point to Addison's disease. Their report was that her chart was negative from that standpoint. Worker then asked if such an illness could develop from June to August, and Dr. Bone replied that it could, but if it had, the patient would have been too ill to visit Hope Cottage to tell about it. On being questioned further, he emphatically stated that even if mother has the disease, there is no danger that the baby will have it. In fact, he would take the baby himself, sight unseen. Mary E. Kirkland

9-30-53. Letter in from the County Clerk of Cook County, Ill., in which he stated he was unable to verify the marriage said to have taken place in January, 1949.

Mary E. Kirkland

-1-53. Baby was examined by Dr. Eugene L. Aten, and found to be below average, but in normal limits. Development slow but not retarded. Mary E. Kirkland

10-1-53. Information sent to Edwin A. Nesbitt, with request that baby be declared dependent and placed in the custody of Hope Cottage Association.

Mary E. Kirkland

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH - DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

ORIGINAL

State File No.

2621

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Division of Vital Statistics and Records

Registered No. **8**

1. PLACE OF DEATH:	Registration
County of <u>MACON</u> Illinois	Dist. No. <u>578</u>
City, State <u>Decatur</u>	Primary Dist. No. <u>3426</u>

Street and Number Decatur & Macon County Health District

LENGTH OF STAY: In Hospital or Institution Yes Max 2 Days: In Community where death occurred Yes Max 2 Days

2. PLACE OF DEATH State Illinois County Macon County, Precinct, Rural Dist.

RESIDENCE City or Village Decatur Street and No. 577 W. Macon

3. (a) FULL NAME (Unknown) Pelph 18. Int. List Number 7760159

3. (b) Vaccinated No name and None Social Security No. None

Sex Female Color or race White 3. (c) SINGLE, MARRIED, ~~WIDOWED, DIVORCED~~

3. (d) Name of husband or wife _____

3. (e) Age of husband or wife (if alive) _____ years

7. BIRTHDATE OF DECEASED January 2, 1949

8. AGE OF DECEASED 0 0 2 Years Months Days If less than one day (Hrs.) (Min.)

9. BIRTHPLACE OF DECEASED Decatur, Illinois City or County State or foreign country

10. USUAL OCCUPATION (Kind of job) Baby

11. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS: Baby

12. Name Unknown

13. Birthplace Unknown

14. Maiden Name Jane K. Pelph

15. Birthplace Unknown

16. INFORMANT Jane K. Pelph (Print and ink signature)

P. O. Address Decatur, Illinois

17. PLACE OF BURIAL, Cremation or Removal

(a) Cemetery Calvary

Location Decatur

County Macon State Illinois

(b) DATE: January 5, 1949

18. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE W. J. Moran

Address Decatur, Illinois

License Number 4896

Firm Name James J. Moran & Sons

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

19. Date of death: Month January day 4 year 1949 hour 12 minute 10 P.M.

20. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Jan 2 1949 to Jan 4 1949 and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.

21. Cause of death: Prematurity Specify cause of death.

22. Was an operation performed? No For what disease or injury?

23. Was there an autopsy? No Findings?

24. If a communicable disease, where contracted? _____

25. Was disease in any way related to occupation of deceased? _____

26. (Signed) J. M. Long M. D. If so, specify why.

Address Decatur, Ill

Date Jan 4 1949 Telephone 7-7693

*N. B.—State the disease causing death. All cases of death from "violence, accident, or any other cause" must be referred to the coroner. See Section 16 Coroner's Act.

27. FILED Jan 5 1949 (Signed) W. J. Moran Registrar P. O. Address Decatur

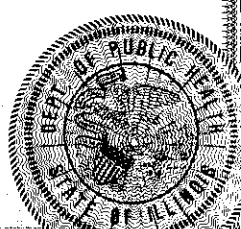
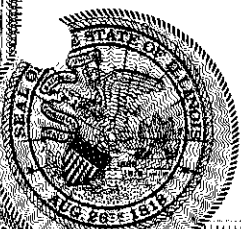
030153

This is to certify that this is a true and correct copy of the official record filed with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

DATE ISSUED

April 7, 1999

Steven L. Perry
STEVEN L. PERRY
DEPUTY STATE REGISTRAR



Department of Health Resources
Birth and Death Records
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

District Court Clerk
Dallas County
County Courthouse
Dallas, TX 75202

Baylor University Medical Center
Medical Records Office
3500 Gaston Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75246

CAUSE NO. 83675-G (10-20-53)

EX PARTE:

Deborah Anne Richey McAlister

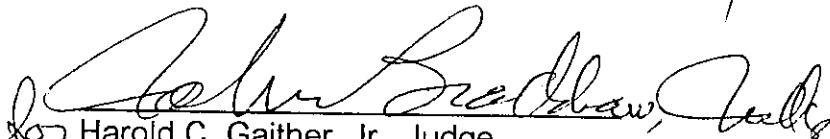
Name of Adoptive Parents: Don Benton Richey and Mary Alice Edwards Richey

Date of Birth: June 3, 1953

ORDER TO OPEN A SEALED FILE
PER SECTION 108.001 OF THE TEXAS FAMILY CODE

On this the 6th day of July, 1998, it is ordered that the DEPT. OF HEALTH AND RESOURCES, AUSTIN AND DISTRICT COURT, DALLAS open the above styled and numbered cause for the purpose of opening the sealed adoption file of Deborah Ann Richey (McAlister) and furnish all documents in this file including identifying documents.

Signed this 7 day of July, 19 98.


for Harold C. Gaither, Jr., Judge
304th Family District Court
Dallas County, Texas

SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE,
90th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
SITTING FOR THE JUDGE OF THE
304 DISTRICT COURT

Person Requesting Information:
Driver's License No.
Relationship to Parties of this Suit:
Reason for Request:

Deborah Anne Richey McAlister
07320874
Adult Adopted as a Child
TO OBTAIN MEDICAL, GENETIC, AND
FAMILY HISTORY
10323 Estate Lane, Dallas Texas 75238
214/342-1275 or 972/669-3456

Address:
Telephone:

Cause No. JC98-00668

DEBORAH A. MCALISTER)(304th DISTRICT COURT

VS.)(

HOPE COTTAGE, INC.)(DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

JUDGMENT

On this day, this matter came on for final hearing before the Court, being submitted on an Agreed Statement of Facts filed with the Clerk of the Court on the 11 day of November, 1998.

After reviewing pleadings on file and hearing evidence and argument of counsel, the Court finds Plaintiff, Deborah A. McAlister has shown good cause to obtain the information requested and the following order is right and proper, under law. Therefore, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

(a) That Respondent Hope Cottage, Inc. release and deliver to Plaintiff all information and documents in its possession and control which pertains to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's biological relatives, whether or not same contains information concerning identities of such individuals.

Costs of court are adjudged against the party by whom incurred. Any relief requested in this cause and not specifically granted in this order is denied.

Signed this 11 day of November, 1998.

Judge Presiding

NO. 94856-B

EX PARTE:

DON BENTON RICHEY,
AND WIFE, MARY ALICE EDWARDS RICHEY

IN THE JUVENILE COURT
OF
DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Now comes Sam M. Davis, Chief Probation Officer of Dallas County, Texas, heretofore appointed to make an investigation of the antecedents of Michelle Avery, a minor, and the environment of the petitioners, Don Benton Richey, and wife, Mary Alice Edwards Richey, and after an examination of the record kept by Hope Cottage Association, an agency licensed by the State of Texas for the placement of children for adoption, shows the Court as follows:

I.

Michelle Avery is a little white child, born at Florence Nightingale Hospital, in Dallas, Texas, on the 3rd of June, 1953. She was admitted to Hope Cottage on the 9th of June, 1953, and since that time she has been wholly maintained by public charity. She is the child of Jane Pelph, who stated that she had been married to Jerome Maurice Avery in January, 1949, having married in Chicago, Illinois, but the County Clerk of Cook County Illinois, was unable to verify this. She gave the name of Jane Pelph Avery at the time of the birth of the child. On the 7th of August, 1953, the mother signed releases on the baby at Hope Cottage.

Michelle Avery was born June 3, 1953, placed in the petitioners' home October 2, 1953, and on October 20, 1953, was declared dependent and neglected in Cause No. 83675-G in the Juvenile Court of Dallas County, Texas, and placed in the care and custody of Hope Cottage.

The baby was examined by Dr. Eugene L. Aten, on October 1, 1953, and found to be of normal mental development and a suitable subject for adoption.

II.

Don Benton Richey and wife, Mary Alice Edwards Richey, have been married since November 30, 1942, having married in Dallas, Texas. They are of the Protestant faith. The couple live at 3859 Wendon Drive, Dallas, Texas. This is an attractive brick home in a new section of the city; the furnishings are comfortable and

neat and the housekeeping standards are good. The yard is well cared for and offers fenced area for the safety of a child.

Mr. Richey was born February 16, 1914, in Denton County, Texas, one of six children. He did not complete high school, lacking one year. He was in the Armed Services from 1941 to 1945. Mr. Richey has worked for about sixteen years as a knitter for the Red Fox Manufacturing Company, sporting goods. He receives a salary of \$5,000.00 a year. His insurance coverage is \$19,000.00, and the couple have a good checking and savings account with Dallas Banks.

Mrs. Richey was born March 8, 1915, in Dallas, Texas, one of two children. She did not complete high school; she was employed prior to her marriage. She is very active in her church work. Both Mr. and Mrs. Richey are in good health.

References: Reverend D. C. Hamm, Mr. Graham L. Pierce, and Mr. A. M. Bittick. All of these references highly recommend Don Benton Richey, and wife, Mary Alice Richey.

III.

The natural mother, Mrs. Jane Pelph Avery, signed the releases on Baby Michelle Avery on August 7, 1953. On October 20, 1953, Michelle Avery was declared dependent and neglected child in Cause No. 83675-G in the Juvenile Court of Dallas County, Texas, and placed in the care and custody of Hope Cottage for placement for adoption. The executive secretary of Hope Cottage signed a consent to the adoption.

IV.

Don Benton Richey and wife, Mary Alice Richey, have had Michelle Avery in their home since October 2, 1953, which is a longer period of time than is required by Statute.

Wherefore, premises considered your investigator recommends that the petitioners be granted leave to adopt Michelle Avery, and that the child's name be changed to Deborah Ann Richey, in order that she may derive the fullest benefit from the adopting parents and home.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM M. DAVIS,
Chief Probation Officer

by: *Leia Palmer*

LEIA PALMER,
Assistant Probation Officer

LP/cp
9-21-54