



ADOPTION CONTACT FORM

The success of open adoption is based on trust and respect for all parties to the adoption. Defining, as best as you can today, what the future will look like helps all parties understand what to expect and how to encourage this relationship in the best interest of the child. To that end, this is an informal agreement between, entered into on (date) _____ between:

Birth parents _____, and

Adoptive parents _____.

Witnessed by _____.

We understand that this is not legally binding in all states, but can be filed with the adoption and honored as a moral obligation. This agreement is to set forth our expectations of open adoption and to encourage cooperation. It is a structure in which to sort out what is best for everyone involved. **It is important for all parties to understand that birth parents' and adoptive parents' needs may change and this document may need updating.** Feelings may change for birth parents after the birth as they come to terms with the love they have for the child they are entrusting to the adoptive parents. This is not an indication of the birth parents changing their mind regarding their adoption decision, but rather a change in the type of post-placement contact desired.

The adoptive parents and birth parents will stay in contact keep each other informed of any change of address and phone number from the time of the match until the adoption procedures are completed.

It is recommended that adoptees be informed of the adoption and their birth parents, beginning in the early childhood years. It is important for the children to be told about their birth parents and the love and care that went into making their adoption decision.

How and when do the adoptive parents plan on sharing adoption with the child?



COMMUNICATION AND VISITS

It is difficult to put into words what the future looks like right now, however we have been as specific as we are able so that everyone’s expectations can be addressed. We understand that open adoption is based in trust and the desire to continue a relationship for the benefit of the child. We further acknowledge that open adoption is not co-parenting. Everyone’s needs will be considered as our relationship changes over time.

Communication

In order to maintain communication, updated phone numbers, addresses, and email address need to be openly shared either directly or through the adoption professional.

The adoptive parents will mail/email (circle one) photos and updates about the baby at the following times during the first year:

- monthly
- upon request
- adopting couples discretion _____
- holidays
- times per year

The adoptive parents will mail/email (circle one) photos and updates about the baby at the following times during subsequent years:

- monthly
- upon request
- adopting couples discretion _____
- holidays
- times per year

Other specific requests to be included with pictures: _____

Other contact agreed upon:

- DVD/Other Video (Frequency _____)
- Text messaging (Frequency _____)
- Telephone calls (Frequency _____)
- Video Chat (Frequency _____)



SOCIAL MEDIA

As we have more opportunities to connect, we can choose to connect over a variety of social networks. Some adoptive parents have even set up a private social network with which to share photos and updates with the birth family. We are currently open to connecting on:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Private social network set up to stay in touch such as private Facebook group or password protected blog
- Other social network _____
- None

VISITS

We all desire to have regular visits for the benefit of the child. We understand that flexibility is required as we plan the frequency, location, and length of the visits to meet the child’s needs. During the first year, we agree to visit _____ times per year.

After the first year, we agree to meet _____ times per year.

We agree that location and duration will be specified as visits are planned, but generally speaking a visit will be (location and duration, for instance “at the park for 1.5 hours with a picnic lunch”) _____

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

For the child’s birthday, are there special requests? _____

For holidays such as Christmas, what are the expectations? _____



For special events in the child’s life, such as baptisms, graduations, and other occasions, do the birth parents wish to be notified or included? _____

Do the birth parents wish to be acknowledged on Mother’s, Father’s, or Birth Mother’s Day? _____

OTHER ITEMS RELATED TO OPEN ADOPTION

What will the birth parents be called by the child? (First name, Aunt, Tummy Mommy, etc) _____

How will changes be made to the arrangements outlined in this document? _____

In the unlikely event of a breakdown in cooperation as stated in this event, both parties agree to seek mediation with the adoption professional.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

We understand that we can make informal changes in these plans when we all agree, but that this agreement cannot be changed to reduce contact, visits, or other information sharing. We will do our utmost to honor the terms we have agreed upon and set into writing.

The birth parents understand that the adoptive parents are the legal parents, and that once the adoption is finalized, the adoptive parents are the child’s only legal parents. As legal parents, the adoptive parents have the right to make all decisions that they determine to be in the best interest of the child, including whether compliance with any conditions of this agreement is in the best interest of the child.



The adoptive parents recognize the great sacrifice made by the birth parents, and agree to honor the commitments they have laid out in this document. They understand that this mutual trust is one of the reasons the birth parents have agreed to enter into an open adoption.

We have read, reviewed, and agree with the contents of this agreement.

Adoptive Parent _____ Date _____

Adoptive Parent _____ Date _____

Birth Parent _____ Date _____

Birth Parent _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____