



418.05 Placement Process - Openness in Adoption



Batthula, Sharath B
Application Analyst II

CHAPTER 4, Adoption and Birth Parent Services

Revision Number: 09-03

Effective Date: 05/14/2009

418.05 Placement Process - Openness in Adoption

This procedure provides birth parents and adoptive parents the right to choose varying degrees of openness in the adoption process.

Adoption Specialist

1. Counsels with birth parent(s) and/or adoptive parent(s) on openness in adoption;
2. Offers the birth parent(s) the options to:
 - ♦ A. Provide input into the selection of a family through the use of non-identifying abstracts.
However, race, color or national origin (RCNO) of the prospective adoptive parent(s) shall not be provided to the birth parent(s);
 - B. Write non- identifying letters to the child and/or adoptive family through the agency;
 - C. Send non- identifying gifts and pictures through the agency;
 - D. Request letters and pictures from the adoptive family through the agency;
 - E. Meet with the adoptive family, if all parties agree. Identifying information will not be exchanged.

F. Other requests not listed above. However, race, color or national origin (RCNO) requests of the birth parent(s) shall not be honored.;

3. Resolves conflicts between birth parents on openness preferences through casework counseling;

4. Assists the birth parent(s) and/or adoptive family to complete the [DSS Form 30100: Openness Checklist for Birth Parents](#) or [DSS Form 30101: Openness in Adoption Checklist](#);

5. Explains to the birth parent(s) that their openness choices cannot be guaranteed; and

6. Explains to the birth parent(s) and the adoptive parent(s) that the validity of the final decree of adoption is not affected by an agreement entered into before the adoption between the adoptive parents and biological parents concerning visitation, exchange of information, or other interaction between the child and any other person. Such an agreement does not preserve any parental rights with the biological parents and does not give to them any rights enforceable in the South Carolina courts.

Referenced Documents

[DSS Form 30100: Openness Checklist for Birth Parents](#)

[DSS Form 30101: Openness For Adoptive Parents](#)

Revision Comments

Section 418.05, 2.A. revised to clarify that the abstract may not contain the adoptive families' race, color or national origin. Section 2.C. deleted, so that the birth parent is not permitted to request that child be placed in a family of a specific religious faith. Section 2.F. revised to clarify that birth parent requests for an adoptive family of a specific race, color or national origin shall not be honored. Section 3 revised to replace the word "placement" with "openness".

