



418.06 Placement Process - Ongoing Contact with Birth Family and/or Other Significant People



Batthula, Sharath B
Application Analyst II

CHAPTER 4, Adoption and Birth Parent Services

Revision Number: 03-03

Effective Date: 11/18/2003

418.06 Placement Process - Ongoing Contact with Birth Family and/or Other Significant People

Adoption Specialist

1. Determines whether there are birth family members, such as siblings or other relatives, or other people significant to the child, with whom it would be in the child's best interest to maintain contact;
2. Counsels with the prospective adoptive family on the importance of maintaining this contact;
3. Stresses to the prospective adoptive family that:
 - a. There is a Reunion Register through which the adoptee and a birth parent and/or sibling may be reunited when the adoptee is at least 21 year of age;
 - b. A birth parent may petition the Family Court to open the adoption record;
 - c. A birth parent or other family member may locate the adoptee through an independent search group or private investigator. In such a case, the agency cannot prevent contact and/or interference;

4. Prepares a written plan prior to implementing the ongoing contact and has all parties sign the plan, including the child if age appropriate;

Adoption Administrator

5. Reviews the written plan and signs it; and

Adoption Specialist

6. Counsels with the birth family member or other significant person on the legal meaning of adoption. Explains that the adoptive family is the child's legal family when the adoption is finalized. If the adoptive family decides to terminate ongoing contact between the child and birth family member or other significant person, they have the right to do so.

Referenced Documents

Revision Comments

