



# Assessor Training

Post-Training  
Skill-Building  
Assignment #7

## Openness in Adoption

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

#### FROM THE FIELD

*“NACAC believes that openness is in the best interest of adopted persons. Open adoptions are one effective way to reduce the complications that adoptees face. By definition, adopted children are connected to both the family into which they were born and the family into which they have been adopted. Since those two families now belong to an extended family kinship network, open adoptions provide a greater potential for the families to work as allies on behalf of the well-being of the children.”*

Policy Statement, North  
American Council on  
Adoptable Children;  
2005.

Completing this assignment will help you:

- Demonstrate strategies to identify all parties with whom openness might be appropriate;
- Recommend a level of openness based on the specific needs of the child and information from all members involved;
- Determine what supportive, therapeutic, and culturally specific casework services may be needed to support the openness plan.

### INSTRUCTIONS (USE THE ATTACHED WORKSHEET TO RECORD YOUR WORK)

1. Identify an adopted child with whom you or a co-worker is working. (Note: This case may involve planning a new adoptive placement or guiding an adoptive family considering openness in an adoption finalized as closed.)
2. With your case in mind, respond to the following questions to develop a recommendation for openness:
  - Who will be involved in the contact?
  - What type of contact should occur?
  - When should the contact occur?
  - Where should the contact occur?
  - Why is contact important?
  - How will conflicts be mediated?
3. Identify any other factors you will need to consider when recommending the level of openness. (Note: use *Openness in Adoption* Handout #10 as a resource.)
4. Discuss your recommendations regarding openness with your supervisor to determine whether your assessments and recommendations are reflective of best practice.
5. Provide feedback on the assignment by completing an online survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=365843881460>

## Worksheet

### OPENNESS IN ADOPTION

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO** (birth parent, birth relative, significant figure)

The following people will be involved in the contact:



**WHAT** (exchange of letter, face-to-face visits, phone contact, etc.)

The type of contact that should occur is:

**WHEN** (how often)

The contact should occur on:

**WHERE** (visitation center, park or neutral location, birthfamily's home, etc.)

Contact should occur at:

**WHY** (child-specific issues)

In this case, contact is important because:

**HOW** (through the caseworker, written plan, face-to-face meeting, etc.)

The process for mediation will be:

Other factors I will need to consider when recommending the level of openness include:

After discussing my recommendations regarding openness with my supervisor she or he provided the following feedback:

### EVALUATION

**OCWTP needs your feedback concerning this assignment. Please go to:**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=365843881460>

**to complete a short online survey. Thank you for your help!**