pact's point of view
serving adopted children of color

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Selecting An Adoption Professional

Decisions you make about building your family rank among the most important you will ever tackle. Don't give away your right to be in charge. Ask questions. Make informed decisions. Be a wise consumer. Professionals providing quality services won't be put off by your need to understand and choose the right path for yourself.

Adoption is a profoundly intimate experience. Listen to your instincts when it comes to choosing professionals that you work with to help complete the process. Do you trust them? Are you and they comfortable discussing the emotional aspects of adoption along with the legal and logistical issues? Do they clearly understand and articulate their own biases?

Ask them about the following issues as they pertain to your situation:

- What is the service-provider's policy or attitude about contact between birth parents and adoptive parents? Is it in accord with the style of contact you hope to pursue? Since Pact strongly advocates openness in adoption, professionals that favor closed adoptions generally find it very difficult to cooperate with the Pact process.

- What are their attitudes or policies regarding your special concerns? These may include age, sexual orientation, religion, working parents, single parent status to name a few.

- What are their policies and experience with people of color, racial issues and adoptions for children of color? If you are considering a transracial placement, be sure to determine the l awyers' or social worker's policy on transracial adoptions.

- How long do they expect the process to take?

- Will they to handle Interstate Compact Placement (ICPC) requirements for adoptions involving more than one state?

- Do they have experience with ICPC and interstate placements?

- Are they licensed to do post-placement supervision or offer post-placement services?

- Do they take birth parent relinquishments and/or terminations?

- What are the service provider's fees for the home study? Interstate Compact compliance? Post-placement supervision? Parental-rights terminations? Finalization?