



2022 PACT WEBINARS

Pact is proud to present our child-centered, race-conscious, honesty-based webinar series for 2022. Participants will learn about every aspect of adoption and its intersection with race and family from proven leaders in the field. Each 90-minute webinar covers topics of adoption, family, parenting and race, specifically designed for members of the adoption constellation and includes additional programming for pre-adopters, professionals, adoptees and first/birth parents.

Registration for each webinar is \$36 for non-members; \$27 for members.

Become a Pact member today for \$75 per year. To register, go to www.pactadopt.org/events.

January 12, 2022

Young Adoptees Speak • Adoptees are the truest experts of their own experience which is why we must listen to what they have to say. Participants will watch a short film featuring adoptees, ages 10 to 17, as they speak about their experiences with and thoughts on race, first/birth families, adoption and more. The screening will be followed by a facilitated conversation that will include talking points and insights that can be used during discussions between children and parents. Gain insights from two adoptees, including Pact's Youth Coordinator and Clinical Director. They will add insight to the moments in time captured in the film and contextualize their remarks in the lifelong evolution and process of understanding one's adoption, and finding each individual's path of identity reconciliation. Bring your questions and be prepared to be moved. This webinar is for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.

February 2, 2022

Interpreting Adopted Youth Behavior • Parenting an adopted child is both the same as, and incredibly different than parenting a child born to you. We will address specific parenting theories and their applicability to adoptive family life, with a focus on positive and effective discipline methods. When children exhibit challenging behaviors, parents can often become confused as they wonder whether the behavior has deeper meaning in the context of adoption. How do we balance teaching children appropriate behavior both at home and in public, while also giving them a voice to express their feelings about adoption, race and family? Join us for an exploration of research-based insights and practical guidance for adoptive parents. This webinar is for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.

February 23, 2022

Adolescent Brain Development: Understanding Tweens & Teens • Parenting teens is something many of us fear as parents, and it's no wonder: Being a teen is complex, and this phase of development often starts before the age of 13! Learn how to understand the many changes taking place in the brains, bodies and emotional centers of tweens and teens so you can better help your adopted child navigate these changes and their intersection with their experiences of adoption, foster care and/or trauma. Often, a parent's most difficult task is to create a delicate balance of loving and letting go as their children work toward creating their own individual identity. How can parents be firm in deliberately conveying their needs, requests and expectations, while maintaining a positive connection to their child? We will offer some practical parenting suggestions and strategies to support ongoing connection while addressing necessary boundaries and expectations. This webinar is for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.

March 16, 2022

First/Birth Parent Voices • First/birth parents are the truest expert on their own experience. In this webinar, participants will hear from a panel of first/birth parents as they discuss the many complexities of adoption. This diverse and interactive panel will address topics such as pregnancy and childbirth, interactions with professionals, relationships with their child/ren and relationships with their child/ren's adoptive parents. Through first-person stories and videos, we'll offer perspectives that represent a spectrum of placements including different types of adoption and reasons for adoption and foster-adoption. There is no single first/birth parent story, so be prepared to have your assumptions challenged and your perspective broadened. This webinar is for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.

April 6, 2022

Adoptee Voices • Pact believes that adopted people are the truest experts of their own experience. Yet, the adoptee perspective is too often subordinated to that of the adoptive parent. In this webinar, participants will hear from adopted adults of color as they share parts of their adoption journey. They will include discussion of the role their first/birth parents and families have had in their lives and in understanding their own identity as well as what they believe is important for adoptive parents to know. They will address issues including open adoption, talking about adoption, first/birth family, challenges of adoption and more. Featured speakers were adopted domestically and internationally, into both transracial and same-race placements. This webinar is for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.

April 27, 2022

Adoptive Parent Voices • This webinar provides the lived experience of adoptive parents as well as some things we wished our younger selves had known and understood earlier. Topics will include: handling your own fears; understanding how children understand and experience adoption; why the words we use matter; answering questions about our child's birth and first/birth parents; responding to difficult behaviors in children (and ourselves); anticipating children's questions whether they ask them or not; and re-working our parenting expectations. Experiences will include same race adoption, transracial adoption, foster adoption, infant adoption, closed adoption and open adoption. Expect an honest conversation about the challenges and the joys of parenting while remembering that hindsight is often 20/20. This webinar is appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents as well as professionals.



May 18, 2022

Blended Families — A Conversation •

Adopted youth who grow up in blended families are sometimes at risk for feeling somehow less connected than their non-adopted siblings. Join a conversation with an adoptive parent, a non-adopted sibling and an adoptee who have lived experience in blended families that include children born to and others adopted into the family. Hear from each as they offer insight into and feedback about strategies and approaches to living as a blended family, including both those that have worked and others that have not. This conversation will push you to think more deeply about how to support adopted youth in these families. This webinar is appropriate for members of blended families built by adoption as well as professionals who work with them.

June 8, 2022

Talking with Children About Race:

A Developmental Approach • A practical, developmentally grounded discussion for both parents and professionals working to support foster and adoptive parents who are parenting children of color. In this webinar, we will help you learn how to talk with children of color about their personal adoption stories, adoptism, racism and racial pride in the context of the white supremacy that permeates their world and ours. We will explore how to introduce and expand conversations in a manner reflective of developmental stages. Participants will be presented with examples of how families, educators and scholars think and strategize for balancing race-based pride with discussing the realities of oppression. This webinar is for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.

June 29, 2022

Development Stages of Transracial

Adoption • Are you planning a transracial adoption (either domestic or international), or are you already parenting across racial lines? In order to successfully meet your child's needs, you must be prepared to think about, learn about and talk about race and racism as well as understand white privilege and how to honestly interrogate your own whiteness. We will explore how these issues impact you and your child throughout their developmental stages. We will review some race facts in America, talk about why race matters in transracial adoption and offer a developmental approach to talking about race with children. Participants will hear directly from a transracial adoptee and a transracial adoptive parent about the challenges and strengths of transracial adoption. This webinar will not support a colorblind but rather a "color-affirming" approach. Other topics will include how to handle questions/

comments about your "visible" family and the importance of building a diverse community for your multiracial family. This webinar is designed for transracial adoptive parents as well as professionals working with these families.

September 7, 2022

Opening A Child's Domestic Adoption •

Whether your child's adoption involved initial contact with first/birth parents, current research shows that openness is best for adoptees. There are often ways to find first/birth family members and in this webinar, participants will learn about search options and the steps adoptive parents can take to open their child's adoption. Are there times when search and contact should wait? What if a family member doesn't want to be found or is unwilling or unable to sustain contact? This workshop will help you explore your questions and concerns, while you learn about practical considerations. Not only how to begin the search, but the next steps for creating relationship guidelines and respect between the adults involved and the necessary efforts needed so that the adopted child(ren), as well as other children in both the adoptive and first/birth family, are supported. You will hear directly from adoptive parents about their journey to open their child's adoption. This webinar is appropriate for foster and adoptive families as well adoption professionals in domestic adoption.

September 28, 2022

Complexity of Open Adoption: A Triad

Inclusive Conversation • Open adoption was created as an alternative to the challenges of closed adoption. But many adoptive parents find new challenges inherent to an open relationship with first/birth family. Hear from triad members living and navigating the complexity of open adoption as they discuss some of the challenges and offer strategies for successfully navigating this journey. There will be a facilitated conversation including adopted people, first/birth parents and adoptive parents living the experience. We will offer practical tips and examples and include suggestions for how to identify and defuse your own triggers, fears, and insecurities thus allowing parents to be fully attuned and creative in meeting the relationship needs of their children and adoption-extended families. This webinar is appropriate for pre- and post- adoptive parents living in or planning an open adoption as well as for adoption professionals.

October 19, 2022

Conversations about Adoption In & With Communities of Color •

This webinar will explore the history, traditions and themes of adoption in communities of color; particularly adoptive families headed by people of color. Topics covered will include talking about adoption when families "match," developing strategies for building and maintaining connection with first families, addressing and challenging stereotypes and preconceptions about adoption, and navigating the complexities of those misunderstandings within our own communities. This webinar is appropriate for BIPOC community members as well as professionals working with them.

November 9, 2022

Dear White People: Becoming an Antiracist Adoptive Parent •

The opposite of being a racist is to be an antiracist. By very young ages, children are thinking a lot about fairness. This makes them natural social justice advocates which is something you can model and nurture. No matter what your child's race, learn how to talk with them about all "-isms," including anti-Black and Brown racism and our country's history of white supremacy. Remember, silence speaks volumes. All of us, and white people in particular, have to push beyond self-examination into action. Those of us parenting children across racial lines must think about how to instill in them not just the horror of racism but the beauty, creativity, resilience and resistance of their racial heritage. We will talk about tools and models for how to embrace an antiracist approach to parenting across racial lines. If you haven't already, join in the commitment today. It matters. This webinar is for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.

December 14, 2022

Siblings in Adoption — A Conversation about Managing the Many Connections •

Adoptees can have many different sibling connections, sometimes known to them, sometimes not: Siblings they are raised with in their adoptive family, birth siblings being raised by their shared birth parent(s), or birth siblings being raised by other adoptive families. Adopted siblings within the same family may have different levels of birth family contact. Siblings being raised by their shared birth parent(s) while adoptees are not can generate big feelings in many directions. Join a conversation with adoptees and parents (by birth and adoption) who have lived experience with sibling relationships both in their adoptive and birth families and what they have found helpful in navigating them. This triad-expansive conversation will offer insight and explorations of the many different sibling relationships navigated in the unique complexity of adoption.

