

PACT WEBINARS

Fall/Winter/Spring 2018–2019

Learn more about every aspect of adoption and its intersection with race and family from proven leaders in the field as part of **Pact's child-centered, race-conscious, honesty-based Webinar series**. Pact hosts 90- and 120-minute webinars on the topics of adoption, parenting and race specifically designed for adoptive families along with additional programming for pre-adopters, professionals, adoptees and first/birth parents every month. Unless otherwise noted, webinars are led by a Pact staff member.

Webinars can be used to fulfill Foster Care and Adoption educational requirements, and are appropriate for both domestic and international placements. Additionally, all registrants will receive a recording of the webinar along with handouts to keep. CEU Eligible webinars¹ meet the qualifications for 2 hours of continuing education credits.

Become a Pact member to receive a 65% discount on the cost (\$35), allowing you to participate for only \$12.25 per webinar or a 30% discount (\$24.50) for CEU Eligible webinars. **To register: www.pactadopt.org/events**

September 26, 2018

Introducing the Adoption Conversation • Learn how to start conversations and introduce concepts without going over your child's head. Topics will include: understanding how children understand & experience adoption, why the words we use matter, why beginning with a child's birth makes sense, how to talk about first/birth parents and answering and anticipating children's questions, whether they ask them or not. *This webinar is appropriate for pre-adoptive parents as well as adoptive parents with young children.*

October 10, 2018

Talking about Adoption When It's Not Visible • Adoptive parents of color parenting children who look like them have choices about when and even whether or not to talk to their children about their adoption history. Sometimes parents worry that telling a child they are adopted will lead to feelings of insecurity or disconnectedness. Get answers to your questions. *Appropriate for adoptive parents of color and their parenting partners and is also applicable for adoption professionals working with families of color.*

October 24, 2018

A Developmental Approach to Transracial Adoption • Are you planning a transracial adoption, or are you already parenting across racial lines? At Pact, we believe that white parents must educate themselves about both race and racism as well as understanding white privilege and interrogating their own whiteness. We will explore how these issues play out in families where children and parents do not share the same racial identity. *Appropriate for transracial adoptive parents as well as professionals working with these families.*

November 14, 2018

LGBTQ Adoptive Parents • In collaboration with *Our Family Coalition* we will address the process and journey for LGBTQ families exploring adoption and/or foster care. What do you need to do to start the process? What are some possible barriers you may face? How do you find an agency or professional that supports and advocates for LGBTQ families? We will also discuss some of the unique post-adoption experiences that LGBTQ adoptive parents may face and offer strategies for how to manage the lifelong issues that come with being an adoptive family. *Appropriate for LGBTQ pre-adoptive and adoptive parents/families.*

November 28, 2018

Is Open Adoption Good Idea for Foster Adoption • When children are removed from their families because of perceived and/or actual safety issues, does the current research that open adoption is in the best interest of the child still apply? We will explore the complexities of open adoptions in the context of foster adoption, including concrete suggestions and lived experiences for how to make it work while keeping children and adults safe. *Appropriate for pre- and post-placement foster and adoptive parents as well as adoption professionals.*

December 12, 2018

What Adoptees Need from Placement, Postplacement & Clinical Professionals — CEU's • Adoptees have unique experiences that impact the kind of case management, counseling and therapeutic services that are effective when working with them. Utilizing knowledge based on research and lived experience, learn how to offer services that help this unique population. *Appropriate for professionals working with adopted youth, adults and their families.*

January 9, 2019

What Adopted Children (and their parents) Need to Know at Various Ages and Stages: Ages 2-5 years old — the Preschool Years • Preschoolers are very concrete thinkers. They are just beginning to learn about things like "same and different" and are beginning to apply their new ideas and understandings to everything, including friends and family. When a child learns that another child was adopted by his or her parents, they usually process it as just another piece of information. When they notice racial features and differences, they are simply categorizing as they are learning to do with shapes and colors. Being careful to use respectful adoption, race and identity language can set the stage for these kids to view their own identity — or their classmate's — in a positive way. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents as well as professionals.*

¹ CEU Eligible Webinars for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and/or LEPs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. All activities in the course are offered for continuing education credit. CAMFT-Approved Continuing Education Provider Number 131157

January 30, 2019

Opening Your Child's Adoption: Searching for Birth Family

• Whether your child's adoption involved initial contact with their first/birth parents or not, there are often ways to find first/birth family members and current research has shown openness is best for adoptees. Are you ready to consider it? How do you know if it will be good for your child? Learn about search options and the steps you can take to open your child's adoption. *Appropriate for foster and adoptive families as well adoption professionals in domestic adoption.*

February 20, 2019

What Adopted Children (and their parents) Need to Know at Various Ages and Stages: Ages 6-9 years old — the Elementary Years

• Children at this age see themselves in terms of what they can do, and begin to compare themselves to their peers. At this age, teasing among peers often becomes a factor. Having differences in family structure and/or racial identification pointed out can make elementary school kids very uncomfortable. Children this age come to understand that in order to be adopted and gain their new family they had to have lost their first family (and maybe others), which leads to whole new understandings and questions about their adoption and identity. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents as well as professionals.*

March 13, 2019

Culturally Relevant and Sensitive Adoption Language and Rituals

• Words and rituals are important methods of human communication through which we tell our stories and underscore our values. Words not only convey facts, they also evoke feelings. Rituals are another form of human communication that send a powerful message of validation to those around us. Learn and understand the importance of culturally relevant and sensitive language and rituals in the context of adoption. *This webinar is applicable to all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.*

April 3, 2019

What Adopted Children (and their parents) Need to Know at Various Ages and Stages: Ages 10-12 years old — the Tween Years

• A tweens job is to figure out who he or she is in the world. The tween years, which can start as young as nine or ten, have often been compared with the preschool years because of the dramatic changes that occur during the move to greater independence. Emotionally, they are getting messages from media and often peers, that they should begin to separate from their family but most of them are not really ready to do so. This often raises raise adoption, genetic, racial and heritage issues/questions that they will begin to explore on deeper level than they have ever before. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents as well as professionals.*

April 24, 2019

Creating Your Dear Expectant Parent Letter • This webinar will guide pre-adoptive parents through the process of creating their Dear Expectant Parent(s) letter and profile. We will focus on specific topics/points that are important to expectant/birth parents as they look at profiles. Example profiles will be shown to give participants an idea of content and layout. You will hear directly from a birth/first parent about what to do and what not to do with your letter/profile. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive parents.*

May 15, 2019

What Adopted Children (and their parents) Need to Know at Various Ages and Stages: Ages 13-18 years old — the Teen Years

• We will explore some of the underlying issues that adoption and racial identity formation add to the mix of the issues teens and their parents are navigating. Discussion topics will include general identity formation, adoption identity and racial identity. How can parents be firm, deliberately laying out their needs, requests and requirements, while maintaining a positive connection to their child? Teens are deeply susceptible to low self-esteem and criticism; parents of teens must find ways to bolster themselves up in the face of the often challenging reactions their teens have in the face of their fears and frustrations. A parent's most difficult task is to create a delicate balance of "to love and let go" as their children work toward creating their own individual identity. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents as well as professionals.*

June 5, 2019

A Developmental Approach to Transracial Adoption

• Are you planning a transracial adoption, or are you already parenting across racial lines? At Pact, we believe that white parents must educate themselves about both race and racism as well as understanding white privilege and interrogating their own whiteness. We will explore how these issues play out in families where children and parents do not share the same racial identity. *Appropriate for transracial adoptive parents as well as professionals working with these families.*

June 26, 2019

What to Expect at the Hospital in Domestic Adoption

• Hear practical and ethical advice about what to expect when pre-adoptive parents have been matched with expectant parents in an adoption plan, with a particular focus on what to expect at the hospital when a child is being placed for adoption. We will focus on how to manage the complex time when a child is born and the first/birth parent(s) are making the legal and emotional decision about whether to move forward with placing that child for adoption. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive parents and adoption professionals.*

