

# Pact Webinars 2018

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 webinars 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](http://www.pactadopt.org/events)**

**January 10, 2018**

**Transracial Adoption for Parents of Color** • Transracial adoption for parents of color is becoming more common. Hear directly from adoptive parents of color parenting across race on their experience of parenting their children as babies and as they grew up, including the steps they took to prepare themselves for transracial adoption and the continued work they do to support their child's race and cultural heritage in conjunction with their own. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive and adoptive parents of color parenting across race, and professionals working with this population.*

**January 24, 2018**

**Creating Your Dear Expectant 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. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive parents.*

**February 14, 2018**

**Siblings in Adoption/Parenting Strategies** • *Guest Speaker: Ruth McRoy, PhD* • In adoption, there can be many different types of sibling relationships, all of which have importance for the adoptee. Adoptive parents and professionals need to help the adoptee manage both feelings and relationship challenges. Join world-renowned researcher Ruth McRoy to improve your understanding and learn strategies for supporting adoptee sibling relationships. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive parents, adoptive parents, birth/first parents and adoption professionals.*

**February 28, 2018**

**Trauma Informed Parenting — When Point Plans Don't Work** • *Guest Speaker: Laura Anderson, Psy.D* • The most well-intended therapists can miss the mark if they stick too closely to traditional behavioral management strategies with children who have trauma and/or adoption histories. We will discuss children with trauma histories and/or attachment disruptions, differing brain and body chemistry and sensory integration issues. *Appropriate for adoptive parents and professionals.*

**March 14, 2018**

**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.*

**March 28, 2018**

**Helping White Families Consider, Understand and Prepare for Transracial Adoption** • Transracially adopting parents are better prepared for success if they are educated in advance about race, racism and how these issues will play out in a family in which children and parents do not share the same racial identity. This workshop will utilize Pact's federally funded self-assessment tool, *Below the Surface*. *Appropriate for both white parents considering transracial adoption or early in their parenting journey as well as professionals working with them.*

**April 11, 2018**

**Adoption through the Lifespan — CEU Eligible** • Recent studies indicate that therapists and social workers rarely receive training on how to best assess and treat members of the adoption triad — adopted people, adoptive parents and birth/first parents. This two hour introductory CEU course will provide social workers, therapists and other helping professionals with tools and best practices to use when providing services to members of the adoption triad. *Appropriate for professionals working with all members of the adoption and foster care triads.*

**April 25, 2018**

**What to Expect at the Hospital** • 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. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive parents.*

**May 9, 2018**

**Adoption Microaggressions** • *Guest Speaker: Amanda Baden, PhD* • Myths, fairy tales, films, books, and everyday communication contain images and stories of orphans and adoptees that convey societal discomfort and judgment about adoption (i.e., adoption stigma). Join Dr. Amanda Baden as she presents "adoption microaggressions," a new framework for conceptualizing the oppression experienced by birth/first parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees *Appropriate for all members of the adoption and foster care triads and professionals.*

**May 23, 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.*

June 13, 2018

**Attachment for Babies & Toddlers** • *Guest Speaker: Pat Johnson, MS* • Parents often worry about how attachment works—especially in adoption. Adoptive parents need to understand how their personal experiences and their child-to-be's prior losses and possible traumas can affect attachment. This webinar will explore practical ways to prepare and create an environment which will nurture attachment. *Appropriate for pre-adoptive parents and recent adoptive parents as well as adoption professionals.*

June 27, 2018

**Living in Open Adoption** • *Guest Speaker: Lori Holden* • 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 birth family. With three simple shifts, you will be able to develop a new mindset and strategy to guide you in your open adoption parenting. Practical tips and examples will be offered. *Appropriate for pre- and post- adoptive parents living in or planning open adoption as well as adoption professionals.*

July 11, 2018

**Using Myth & Archetype to Cultivate Insight & Integrate Self for Adult Adoptees** • *Guest Speaker: Jemma Elliot, LPCC, LMFT* • Adult adoptees have decades of practice at internalizing and identifying with the adoptee label. The practice of working with the depth psychological tools of myths and archetypes can provide an adult adoptee with the opportunity to externalize the adoptee narrative, and recognize patterns and feelings as separate from the self. Recognition of these stories and patterns leads to greater understanding, and a more whole sense of self. *Appropriate for adult adoptees and professionals.*

July 25, 2018

**Culturally Relevant & Sensitive Adoption Language & 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. *Appropriate for all members of the adoption constellation and adoption professionals.*

August 22, 2018

**Transracial Adoption for Professionals — CEU Eligible** • This course will orient professionals to better evaluate and support pre-adoptive & adoptive families in transracial adoption, so as to provide effective, sensitive, adoption and race-competent services to them in private practice and agency settings. Specific approaches about how to talk about race and how the race of the trainer impacts those discussions will be explored. *Appropriate for adoption professionals.*

September 12, 2018

**Adoption...It's Complicated!** • Does your organization provide counseling to women facing unplanned pregnancies? The only program of its kind, "Adoption...It's Complicated!" draws on both first-hand personal experiences, and the latest research, to help service providers discuss adoption with honesty, balance, and compassion. *Appropriate for professionals working with pregnant women, expectant parents, and first/birth parents.*

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. *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

**Birth/First Parent Voices** • Nationwide, the adoption discussion is too often missing the perspective of first/birth parent voices and instead dominated by the voices of adoptive parents. This bias masks the fact that every adoptee has two sets of parents, birth and adoptive. Hear from first parents to gain insight and understanding of their piece of the adoption experience. *Appropriate for all members of the adoption triad and adoption professionals.*

November 28, 2018

**Is Open Adoption a 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 Eligible** • 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.*

