

Post Adoption Information Sheet No 7

Pros and cons of approaching Adoptive Parents

PROS

- The adoptive parents may be very supportive and anxious to help.
- If the adopted person is not aware of the adoption, it is preferable that the 'telling' comes from the adoptive parents rather than the parent.
- Support for the adopted person is in-built.
- There is a clear indication that the parent is acknowledging their role.
- They can convey an indication of the readiness or otherwise of the adopted person for contact

CONS

- If the adopted person is in his/her early twenties, he/she may still be in the late throes of adolescence. The adoptive parents would hold the power if the approach was made to them - and the adopted person may resent being put back in the position of being a child.
- The parent has to deal with the adoptive parents' feelings as well as her/his own - and so does the adopted person. Contacting the adopted person directly bypasses this added complication.
- The adoptive parents' opinion of the adopted person's readiness, for contact would be from their own viewpoint and would not necessarily accurately reflect the adopted person's situation.
- The adoptive parents could make a decision on behalf of their adult child, instead of involving him/her, especially if feeling threatened by the parent.
- The adoptive parents might act as a barrier to the parent getting in touch with the adopted person.

- The adopted person could be angry that the parent has approached his/her adoptive parents rather than contacting him/her directly.
- If the adopted person doesn't know of his/her adoption and the adoptive parents refuse to 'tell' then the parent faces the dilemma of whether or not to approach the adopted person directly.

Please phone us if you wish to talk further about any issues raised in this information sheet.

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