

# The Openness Guide for Adoptive Parents

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT  
OPEN ADOPTION

by Lanette Nelson, MPA



*An Open Adoption Project Publication*

# Openness In Adoption

**Mandi MacDonald**



## **Openness In Adoption:**

Openness in Adoption Harold D. Grotevant, Ruth Gail McRoy, 1998-06-24 Since the mid 1970s adoption practices in the United States have changed dramatically and the confidentiality maintained in the past is no longer the norm The trend is toward openness in adoption in which either mediated through an adoption agency or direct contact occurs between the adoptive family and birth parent s Some adoption professionals argue that openness is harmful and experimental while others argue that the secrecy of confidential adoptions has been harmful to all parties involved Who s right In *Openness in Adoption* this question is addressed via a nationwide study of 720 individuals 190 adoptive fathers 190 adoptive mothers 171 adopted children and 169 birthmothers that was conducted over a five year period The book begins by presenting the issues and debates surrounding open adoptions and then examines them from the perspective of the adopted children adoptive parents and birth mothers The volume concludes with implications for adoption practice public policy and future research A groundbreaking volume *Openness in Adoption* provides a wealth of information to professionals and practitioners in the fields of family studies sociology developmental psychology social work clinical psychology and social psychology

**Openness in Adoption** Ruth Mcroy, Harold D. Grotevant, Kerry L. White, 1988-09-26 In recent years there has been a growing trend towards increased communication among members of the adoption triad Although many adoption agencies are moving towards increased information sharing there is little research evidence available concerning the consequences of this practice This unique study investigates the consequences of openness in adoption as practiced by several adoption agencies Seventeen adoptive families and their corresponding birthparents were interviewed The effects of the open adoption procedures on family life and attitudes were assessed Included are a review of the literature on openness in adoption a review of relevant theoretical perspectives a discussion of agency practices and a description of strengths and weaknesses of current research methods *The Spirit of Open Adoption* James L. Gritter, 1997 An outspoken and ardent advocate for openness in adoption James Gritter writes of the need for members of the adoption triad to emphasize services that benefit adoptees first and foremost Gritter guides the reader along a spiritual journey that explores the candour commitment community and cooperation that defines successful open adoptions *The Open-Hearted Way to Open Adoption* Lori Holden, 2013-03-28 Prior to 1990 fewer than five percent of domestic infant adoptions were open In 2012 ninety percent or more of adoption agencies are recommending open adoption Yet these agencies do not often or adequately prepare either adopting parents or birth parents for the road ahead of them The adult parties in open adoptions are left floundering There are many resources on why to do open adoption but what about how Open adoption isn t just something parents do when they exchange photos send emails share a visit It s a lifestyle that may feel intrusive at times be difficult or inconvenient at other times Tensions can arise even in the best of circumstances But knowing how to handle these situations and how to continue to make arrangements work for the child involved is paramount This book offers readers the tools and the insight to

do just that It covers common open adoption situations and how real families have navigated typical issues successfully Like all useful parenting books it provides parents with the tools to come to answers on their own and answers questions that might not yet have come up Through their own stories and those of other families of open adoption Lori and Crystal review the secrets to success the pitfalls and challenges the joys and triumphs By putting the adopted child at the center families can come to enjoy the benefits of open adoption and mitigate the challenges that may arise More than a how to this book shares a mindset a heartset that can be learned and internalized so parents can choose to act out of love and honesty throughout their child s growing up years helping that child to grow up whole *Open Adoption* Murray Ryburn,1994 This text discusses open adoption and related issues about attachment the formation of personal identity and the meaning of permanence in child care It highlights assumptions about the nature of the family and beliefs about the role of the state in family matters The book is a challenge to some of the practices in the recruitment and preparation of those who would adopt to the process of planning decision making and the placement of children who are adopted and to the role of agencies in post adoption support services

**Openness in Adoption** Harold D. Grotevant,Ruth Gail McRoy,1998-06-24 Since the mid 1970s adoption practices in the United States have changed dramatically and the confidentiality maintained in the past is no longer the norm The trend is toward openness in adoption in which either mediated through an adoption agency or direct contact occurs between the adoptive family and birth parent s Some adoption professionals argue that openness is harmful and experimental while others argue that the secrecy of confidential adoptions has been harmful to all parties involved Who s right In *Openness in Adoption* this question is addressed via a nationwide study of 720 individuals 190 adoptive fathers 190 adoptive mothers 171 adopted children and 169 birthmothers that was conducted over a five year period The book begins by presenting the issues and debates surrounding open adoptions and then examines them from the perspective of the adopted children adoptive parents and birth mothers The volume concludes with implications for adoption practice public policy and future research A groundbreaking volume *Openness in Adoption* provides a wealth of information to professionals and practitioners in the fields of family studies sociology developmental psychology social work clinical psychology and social psychology

*Open Adoption and Diverse Families* Abbie E. Goldberg,2019-09-03 Whereas adoption was once a private affair cloaked in secrecy and sealed records adoptions in the US today are increasingly open that is birth and adoptive families meet and become acquainted before the adoption and remain in contact once it is complete Experts agree that open adoption comes with many benefits for both birth families and adoptive families and their children but what does it actually look like for families experiencing it and what can we learn from those experiences *Open Adoption and Diverse Families* reveals the strengths vulnerabilities daily struggles and triumphs of adoptive families today Drawing on extensive interviews with lesbian gay and heterosexual parents many of whom adopted transracially psychologist Abbie Goldberg confronts the extraordinary questions that open adoption poses How do adoptive parents feel about openness when they first learn about it

and why do their feelings change over time How does contact unfold and evolve as a child grows What types of boundary challenges arise between adoptive and birth family members particularly in the age of social media and networking How do adoptive parents talk about adoption with their children and how does this vary depending on level and type of contact with birth families Confronting head on difficult subjects such as birth parents mental illness and racial differences between birth and adoptive families Open Adoption and Diverse Families chronicles the decisions and dynamics that adoptive parents sign up for when they pursue open adoption and is a must read for all families pursuing or experiencing this exceptional approach to building a family      *How Open Should My Adoption Be?* Russell Elkins, 2019-12-05 Each installment of this four part series is designed to be easily ingested usually readable in about half an hour 10 Open Adoption Essentials What Children Need Their Adoptive Parents Birthparents to Know About Open Adoption Relationships After an infant is adopted why is it so common for relationships to fall apart between adoptive parents and birthparents One reason is because that relationship is so unique from any other relationship in this world that it is difficult for those involved to foresee what that could go wrong It does not have to be this way You owe it to yourself and others in your adoption triad child adoptive parents birthparents to learn as much as you can in order to sidestep some of the bumps you may experience along your journey There are many factors that go into a healthy adoption triad but it is always good to start out understanding the ten most essential ones How to Create the Ideal Adoption Profile How to Get Noticed by Potential Birthparents Writing the Perfect Dear Birthmother Letter Choosing the Right Profile Pictures and More Why is it that some couples are forced to wait many years before they are chosen to adopt while others are chosen quickly One reason is that everyone needs to have a good profile listing with the adoption agency or any potential birthparent will browse right past them to the next couple hoping to adopt Creating the ideal adoption profile can be hard but it doesn't need to be Using the knowledge gained from his degree in Sociology as well as interviewing countless birthparents about why they chose whom they did to adopt their child this little book will walk you through the process of choosing the right photographs writing your profile introductory letter and doing what it takes to make sure you get noticed How Open Should My Adoption Be Understanding Open vs Closed Adoption Preparing for Possible Difficulties Pros Cons of Sharing Pictures Updates Visiting Birthparents Social Media Appropriate Gifts More When planning to adopt an infant how could you possibly know how open your adoption should be No two adoptions are alike so there cannot be a universal correct answer Even when the same couple is involved in more than one adoption each situation will require a different answer to that question And to make a complicated question even more difficult there are many layers to open adoption that will each require an answer in order to have a healthy adoption triad How often should you share pictures and updates What are the pros and cons of connecting with birthparents over social media What risks are being taken by involving extended family members in your adoption relationships What about visiting face to face This book may not be able to answer the question for you about how open your adoption should be but it will give

you tools to help you answer it for yourself 99 DOs and DON Ts with Open Adoption What Hopeful Adoptive Parents Need to Know Before Adopting a Baby After adopting an infant what is the best way to navigate complicated open adoption relationships You owe it to yourself and the others in your adoption triad to learn as much as you can in order to sidestep some of the bumps you may experience along your journey This book might not go quite as deeply in depth as the others in this series regarding certain topics but these are 99 essential things every adoptive couple needs to know regarding open adoption Each bit of advice will get the wheels turning inside your mind regarding the intricate complexities of open adoption relationships and get you thinking more deeply about all aspects of your adoption triad before during and after the adoption takes place If you read only one book from this series make sure it is this one **Open Adoption and Diverse Families**

Abbie E. Goldberg, 2019-09-03 Whereas adoption was once a private affair cloaked in secrecy and sealed records adoptions in the US today are increasingly open that is birth and adoptive families meet and become acquainted before the adoption and remain in contact once it is complete Experts agree that open adoption comes with many benefits for both birth families and adoptive families and their children but what does it actually look like for families experiencing it and what can we learn from those experiences Open Adoption and Diverse Families reveals the strengths vulnerabilities daily struggles and triumphs of adoptive families today Drawing on extensive interviews with lesbian gay and heterosexual parents many of whom adopted transracially psychologist Abbie Goldberg confronts the extraordinary questions that open adoption poses How do adoptive parents feel about openness when they first learn about it and why do their feelings change over time How does contact unfold and evolve as a child grows What types of boundary challenges arise between adoptive and birth family members particularly in the age of social media and networking How do adoptive parents talk about adoption with their children and how does this vary depending on level and type of contact with birth families Confronting head on difficult subjects such as birth parents mental illness and racial differences between birth and adoptive families Open Adoption and Diverse Families chronicles the decisions and dynamics that adoptive parents sign up for when they pursue open adoption and is a must read for all families pursuing or experiencing this exceptional approach to building a family **10 Open Adoption Essentials**

**(series book 1)** Russell Elkins, 2019-12-05 Each installment of this four part series is designed to be easily ingested usually readable in about half an hour 10 Open Adoption Essentials What Children Need Their Adoptive Parents Birthparents to Know About Open Adoption Relationships After an infant is adopted why is it so common for relationships to fall apart between adoptive parents and birthparents One reason is because that relationship is so unique from any other relationship in this world that it is difficult for those involved to foresee what that could go wrong It does not have to be this way You owe it to yourself and others in your adoption triad child adoptive parents birthparents to learn as much as you can in order to sidestep some of the bumps you may experience along your journey There are many factors that go into a healthy adoption triad but it is always good to start out understanding the ten most essential ones How to Create the Ideal Adoption Profile

How to Get Noticed by Potential Birthparents Writing the Perfect Dear Birthmother Letter Choosing the Right Profile Pictures and More Why is it that some couples are forced to wait many years before they are chosen to adopt while others are chosen quickly One reason is that everyone needs to have a good profile listing with the adoption agency or any potential birthparent will browse right past them to the next couple hoping to adopt Creating the ideal adoption profile can be hard but it doesn't need to be Using the knowledge gained from his degree in Sociology as well as interviewing countless birthparents about why they chose whom they did to adopt their child this little book will walk you through the process of choosing the right photographs writing your profile introductory letter and doing what it takes to make sure you get noticed How Open Should My Adoption Be Understanding Open vs Closed Adoption Preparing for Possible Difficulties Pros Cons of Sharing Pictures Updates Visiting Birthparents Social Media Appropriate Gifts More When planning to adopt an infant how could you possibly know how open your adoption should be No two adoptions are alike so there cannot be a universal correct answer Even when the same couple is involved in more than one adoption each situation will require a different answer to that question And to make a complicated question even more difficult there are many layers to open adoption that will each require an answer in order to have a healthy adoption triad How often should you share pictures and updates What are the pros and cons of connecting with birthparents over social media What risks are being taken by involving extended family members in your adoption relationships What about visiting face to face This book may not be able to answer the question for you about how open your adoption should be but it will give you tools to help you answer it for yourself 99 DOs and DON'Ts with Open Adoption What Hopeful Adoptive Parents Need to Know Before Adopting a Baby After adopting an infant what is the best way to navigate complicated open adoption relationships You owe it to yourself and the others in your adoption triad to learn as much as you can in order to sidestep some of the bumps you may experience along your journey This book might not go quite as deeply in depth as the others in this series regarding certain topics but these are 99 essential things every adoptive couple needs to know regarding open adoption Each bit of advice will get the wheels turning inside your mind regarding the intricate complexities of open adoption relationships and get you thinking more deeply about all aspects of your adoption triad before during and after the adoption takes place If you read only one book from this series make sure it is this one

*How Open Should My Adoption Be?* Russell Elkins, 2015-04-04 An open adoption relationship can be scary Open adoption means that an adopted child has a relationship with his or her biological family But just how open should that relationship be There is nothing in this world like an open adoption Because of that it's hard to foresee the many different scenarios that will come You do your best to plan ahead but you'll still find yourself in situations you hadn't fully considered Should you connect with your child's birthparents on social media Should you allow face to face visits How often should you share photos and letters This book cannot answer these types of questions for you What it will do is help you envision how these intimate interactions can positively or negatively affect your relationship so that you can answer them for yourself It

will walk you through many of these situations to help you plan for what could be one of the most rewarding relationships in your life *Families, Relational Attachments, and the Law of Collaborative Family-Making* Pamela

Laufer-Ukeles, 2024-08-26 This book points to a crisis at the heart of modern family law's treatment of collaborative family making gamete contributions surrogate motherhood adoption functional parenthood foster care and kin caregiving Born of inequality and anchored by exclusivity and secrecy the dominant legal framework governing collaborative family making focuses on the acquisition of collaborative services by legal and intended parents without expecting or fostering any lasting bonds between them This acquisitional framework is starkly disconnected from empirical accounts of the lived experience of collaborations which demonstrate complex and ongoing relational attachments that extend beyond a transactional moment At the intersection of law and sociology the book is to account for relational realities that fail to conform to neat legal categories of parent and stranger asking How should the law reflect the complex interconnections between families and family making collaborators Should collaborators be treated as legal strangers Who is impacted by the lack of legal status possessed by family making collaborators Who benefits and who loses Ultimately this is a work of optimism that seeks to facilitate family making collaborations in more ethical ways by insisting that family law recognize and support family making collaborators It introduces a bold new legal framework of interconnection and guides the reader in implementing practical legal and contractual changes that promote human dignity uphold children's right to identity and support ongoing relational attachments with adults who are fundamental to children's lives The volume provides deep and accessible insight into families and family law for legal practitioners academics students and laypersons interested in family making collaboration

**The Open-Hearted Way to Open Adoption** Lori Holden, 2013-03-28 Prior to 1990 fewer than five percent of domestic infant adoptions were open In 2012 ninety percent or more of adoption agencies are recommending open adoption Yet these agencies do not often or adequately prepare either adopting parents or birth parents for the road ahead of them The adult parties in open adoptions are left floundering There are many resources on why to do open adoption but what about how Open adoption isn't just something parents do when they exchange photos send emails share a visit It's a lifestyle that may feel intrusive at times be difficult or inconvenient at other times Tensions can arise even in the best of circumstances But knowing how to handle these situations and how to continue to make arrangements work for the child involved is paramount This book offers readers the tools and the insight to do just that It covers common open adoption situations and how real families have navigated typical issues successfully Like all useful parenting books it provides parents with the tools to come to answers on their own and answers questions that might not yet have come up Through their own stories and those of other families of open adoption Lori and Crystal review the secrets to success the pitfalls and challenges the joys and triumphs By putting the adopted child at the center families can come to enjoy the benefits of open adoption and mitigate the challenges that may arise More than a how to this book shares a mindset a heartset that can be learned and internalized so parents can



choose to act out of love and honesty throughout their child's growing up years helping that child to grow up whole

Handbook of Adoption Rafael A. Javier, 2007 Handbook of Adoption addresses topics in adoption that reflect the many dimensions of theory research development race adjustment and clinical practice which can affect adoption triad members

**Parenthood and Open Adoption** Mandi MacDonald, 2016-07-05 This book explores what it is like to be involved in contemporary open adoption characterised by varying forms of contact with birth relatives from an adoptive parent point of view The author's fine grained interpretative phenomenological analysis of adopters accounts reveals the complexity of kinship for those whose most significant relationships are made unmade and permanently altered through adoption

MacDonald distinctively connects adoption to wider sociological theories of relatedness and personal life and focuses on domestic non kin adoption of children from state care including compulsory adoption The book also addresses current child welfare concerns and suggestions are made for adoption practice The book will be of interest to scholars and students with an interest in adoption social work child welfare foster care family and sociology

*Adoption Rethink* Dr Gregory K Pike, Women's Forum Australia, 2014-11-08 Adoption is a viable alternative for women children and families in need A new legislative approach from State and Federal Governments the involvement of Non Government Organisations in providing adoption services and a change to the hostile attitudes towards adoption that have developed within the various bureaucracies in recent years is necessary This must be underpinned by a comprehensive evidence based education campaign to inform the community about the benefits of adoption for women children and families particularly in comparison to other arrangements Australia needs an adoption rethink

**Children of Open Adoption and Their Families** Kathleen Silber, Patricia Martinez Dorner, 1990 Examines the effect of open adoption on children of various ages

**The Complete Adoption Book** Laura Beauvais-Godwin, Raymond Godwin, 2005-10-17 Your dream of being a parent can come true The Complete Adoption Book is your indispensable resource along the way Whether you choose to pursue independent agency or international adoption The Complete Adoption Book is the most comprehensive and authoritative adoption book you can use to guide you through the process from deciding if adoption is right for you to budgeting your expenses and interviewing birth mothers As adoption professionals and adoptive parents authors Laura Beauvais Godwin and Raymond Godwin bring an unparalleled level of expertise and compassion to every situation an adopting parent is likely to encounter The information provided in The Complete Adoption Book includes Information about every kind of adoption from family adoption to independent and from agency to international All contact information required for agencies attorneys and support groups State by state requirements for completing legal adoptions A step by step guide to the home study The Complete Adoption Book puts control back in your hands and places you on the right track for securing the family you've always wanted quickly legally and with few complications

*The Encyclopedia of Adoption* Christine A. Adamec, Laurie C. Miller, 2007 Includes information on the Adoption and Safe Families Act a federal law created to encourage the adoption of foster children This

encyclopedia also includes information on other adoption issues such as laws concerning adoptions by gays and lesbians tax issues school and adopted children birthfather rights transracial adoptions and more

The Sage Encyclopedia of LGBTQ+ Studies, 2nd Edition Abbie E. Goldberg, 2023-01-05 The SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies 2nd Edition will be a broad interdisciplinary product aimed at students and educators interested in an interdisciplinary perspective on LGBTQ issues This far reaching and contemporary set of volumes is meant to examine and provide understandings of the lives and experiences of LGBTQ individuals with attention to the contexts and forces that shape their world The volume will address questions such as What are the key theories used to understand variations in sexual orientation and gender identity How do LGBTQ people experience the transition to parenthood How does sexual orientation intersect with other key social locations e g race to shape experience and identity What does LGBTQ affirmative therapy look like How have anti LGBTQ ballot measures affected LGBTQ people What are LGBTQ people s experiences during COVID 19 How were LGBTQ people impacted by the Trump administration What is life like for LGBTQ people living outside the United States This encyclopedia will be a unique product on the market a reference work that looks at LGBTQ issues and identity primarily through the lenses of psychology human development and sociology and emphasizing queer feminist and ecological perspectives on this topic Entries will be written by top researchers and clinicians across multiple fields psychology human development gender queer studies sexuality studies social work nursing cultural studies education family studies medicine public health and sociology contributing to approximately 450 500 signed entries All entries will include cross references and Further Readings

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