

Benefits and Limitations of a Post-Adoption Contact and Communication

A Post-Adoption Contact and Communication Agreement (PACCA) can assist with lifelong connections for a child who has been adopted. Some benefits and limitations of this agreement are:

Family Entity	Benefits	Limitations
Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a realistic understanding of the circumstances regarding the birth parent(s) • Has a sense of security and well-being knowing the adoptive parent(s) and birth parent(s) work collaboratively to support the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows only the birth parent(s) and adoptive parent(s) to enter into the PACCA • Does not allow grandparents, siblings or other birth relatives the option to enter into the PACCA
Birth Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the ability to exchange information with the adoptive parent on an ongoing basis • Know that the child is in a safe and secure environment • Know that the child will have information regarding the birth family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in a PACCA does not guarantee an agreement will occur • Allows only the birth parent(s) to enter into the PACCA • Does not allow grandparents, siblings or other birth relatives to enter into the PACCA
Adoptive Parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the child's need to identify with the birth family and accept the new adoptive family • Allows a better understanding and knowledge of the biological family • Allows access to obtain additional family information, if needed • Obtains support of the birth parent(s) to help the child to become a member of the adoptive family • Having the ability to exchange ongoing information about the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering into a PACCA will not guarantee a continued relationship with the birth parent(s) • Requires the PACCA to be submitted to a circuit court in Virginia in order for the PACCA to become legally enforceable.