

# Los Angeles County DCFS Adoptions Division Post Adoption Services (PAS) Newsletter

SUMMER 2005

ISSUE #2

## Welcome to the PAS newsletter!

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide information about what services are offered by the Post Adoption Services unit. For more information, call the PAS duty line @ (800) 735-4984.

## Did you know...?

- ❖ If a birth parent tells their child's CSW that they would like to have contact with their child after their child reaches adulthood, please let birth parents know that they may submit a notarized Consent for Contact form and have it placed in their child's case file. If, after their child turns 18, he or she wants PAS to assist them in locating and reuniting with their birth parents, he or she can contact PAS and submit the same form. This form allows the PAS worker to disclose the name and phone numbers of the birth parent(s) to their adult biological child and vice-versa. It is important for all parties to keep PAS informed of any changes of address and/or phone numbers. The form is available on-line and can be accessed at : <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/pdf/AD904.PDF>
- ❖ PAS is also able to facilitate reunions between sibling adoptees who have reached the age of 21 years. If an adoptee wants assistance from PAS in reuniting with their sibling(s) who were also adopted, they must submit a notarized Waiver of Confidentiality form to PAS. Once PAS receives these notarized forms from all parties, the PAS worker can facilitate a sibling reunion. These forms are also available on-line at the following: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/pdf/AD904A.PDF>

## Stories about how PAS has helped

Here's a reunion that a PAS social worker was able to facilitate. A male adoptee contacted DCFS

Post Adoption Services Unit for background information regarding his birth parents. He also submitted a notarized Consent for Contact form in hopes that he would be able locate and someday meet his birth mother. When the PAS social worker reviewed the case file, she found that at the time the birth mother signed relinquishment papers, she also told the social worker that she would like to be reunited with her son when he reaches adulthood. The CSW began searching for this birth mother and was successful in locating her address. A letter and a Consent for Contact form was sent to her. The birth mother filled out the form, had it notarized and returned it the PAS social worker within two weeks. This allowed the PAS social worker to contact both parties and place them in touch with one another.

The birth mother was living in California, but the adoptee was living in another State. PAS was able to give them each other's phone numbers, and once they got the phone numbers, they talked on the phone to each other every day. They contacted the PAS social worker and asked to have their first face-to-face meeting at the PAS office. The meeting took place shortly before Thanksgiving in 2003. The meeting was a success. The PAS social worker said they had so much love for each other at this first meeting it was hard to believe that they had not met since his birth 30 years earlier. Being part of this reunion was a rewarding and joyful experience for the CSW. At the end of the meeting they gave the CSW big hugs and thanked her for her efforts. The happiness that the PAS worker was able to bring to these two people was inspirational and the CSW swore to herself that she would continue to do her best to make this happen again and again.

This newsletter is accessible on the DCFS Internet website at [www.dcf.co.la.ca.us](http://www.dcf.co.la.ca.us) and on DCFS' internal site, LAKids. If you would like to submit questions or see other information added to this newsletter, please e-mail CSW Jennifer White or Clare Naughton.

## Additional Resources

PAS has several books available for staff and adoptive families on a variety of topics related to adoption and parenting. The books are free; please contact the PAS hotline @ 1-800-735-4984 or e-mail PAS and let us know if you want more information.

## Common questions & answers

**Q:** My adoptive child's therapist is recommending that my child receive in-patient services in a Residential Treatment Center facility. Will AAP pay for the cost of Residential Treatment for my child?

**A:** There is funding available from AAP that will cover the cost of your child's stay in certain Residential Treatment Centers (RTC) if that RTC meets specific qualifying guidelines. Please contact the PAS hotline for more information regarding AAP funding for Residential Treatment Centers. Your entire AAP benefit will be forwarded to the RTC during your child's stay at the RTC and will be reinstated to you once he/she returns to your care.

**Q:** I was told that I was given all the available non-identifying information about my birth parents, but there was no Consent for Contact form in the case file from my birth parents therefore I was not given their names or phone numbers. What is available to assist me in searching for my birth parents?

**A:** Many search organizations exist, and many of them charge high fees for their services with mixed results. The following is a list of search organizations that are free or have minimal fees for their services:

- ❖ Adoptees Liberty Movement Association (ALMA) Southern California chapter: Tel. 626-799-4569; [www.almasociety.org](http://www.almasociety.org)
- ❖ American Adoption Congress (AAC) 1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 9, Washington, D.C. 20036; Tel. 202-483-3399; [www.americanadoptioncongress.org](http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org)
- ❖ Concerned United Birthparents Tel. 800-822-2777 [www.cubirthparents.org](http://www.cubirthparents.org)
- ❖ International Soundex Reunion Registry. This is the largest offline reunion registry in the world (don't do searches) & it's free. Tel. 775-882-7755 (address P.O. Box 2313, Carson, City, NV 89702); [www.isrr.net](http://www.isrr.net)

- ❖ National Adoption Information Clearinghouse; Tel. 888-251-0075; <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/>
- ❖ Search-Finders of California, Inc. This is a search organization but they also have support groups, etc. Tel. 408-356-6711 (in San Jose); [www.searchfinders.org](http://www.searchfinders.org)
- ❖ [www.Adoption.com](http://www.Adoption.com) This is the largest online reunion registry and it's free. Other websites that have information about search and reunion:
  - [www.AdoptionReunion.com](http://www.AdoptionReunion.com)
  - [www.Adopting.org](http://www.Adopting.org)

### Books:

- ♦ [The Adoption Reunion Survival Guide](#) by Julie J. Bailey & Lynn N. Giddens
- ♦ [Adoption Searches Made Easier](#) by Joseph Culligan
- ♦ [Search: A Handbook for Adoptees and Birthparents](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, by Jayne Askin
- ♦ [Birth Bond: Reunions Between Birth Parents and Adoptees – What Happens After...](#) by Judith S. Gediman & Linda P. Brown

## Post Adoption Services Team

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### PAS Duty Line

Direct inquiries to: 800-735-4984