



Does my child have to participate in Postadoption Sibling Contact Meetings?

The prospective adoptive child and his/her minor siblings have a right to participate in Postadoption Sibling Contact Meetings. To help facilitate the process, caretakers are encouraged to speak with the child prior to the meeting. The child may also speak with his/her attorney (if applicable), parent/guardian, and/or his/her Social Worker (if applicable). Additionally, caretakers may speak with the assigned Social Worker prior to the meeting if they have any questions or concerns. Lastly, the facilitator will complete an assessment of the child prior to the meeting to see if they believe the child is appropriate to participate in the meeting.

When is the Meeting?

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Primary Social Worker: _____

Phone No. _____

What rights do participants have at Postadoption Sibling Contact Meetings?

- * To be treated respectfully
- * To be able to express feelings honestly
- * To play a primary role in creating the postadoption sibling contact agreement

Why is it important to attend the meeting?

This is an opportunity for the participants to give input into decisions regarding whether or not to voluntarily execute a postadoption sibling contact agreement.



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Kern County Department of Human Services

Postadoption Sibling Contact Meetings



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What is a Postadoption Sibling Contact Meeting?

Postadoption Sibling Contact Meetings bring together a prospective adoptive child, his/her sibling(s), and his/her prospective adoptive parent(s) so that, with the support of professionals, a decision can be made on whether a postadoption sibling contact agreement should be voluntarily executed.

Who may attend the meetings?

The prospective adoptive child, his/her prospective adoptive parent(s), his/her sibling(s), the siblings' caretaker(s), legal counsel for the prospective adoptive child and dependent sibling(s), and legal counsel for the Kern County Department of Human Services (KCDHS) Adoption Agency.

What happens at the meetings?

A trained facilitator will lead a discussion directed at deciding whether or not to voluntarily execute a postadoption sibling contact agreement.

What does KCDHS expect of participants at the meeting?

The KCDHS expects participants to fully engage in the meeting, be open and honest, and voice their opinion regarding postadoption sibling contact. Participants should focus on what is in the best interest of the prospective adoptive child. During the meeting, all participants may be able to come up with a written plan that works for everyone involved.



Are these meetings held for every prospective adoptive child?

No, there are three reasons a Postadoption Sibling Contact Meeting may not be held:

- * The prospective adoptive child has no known siblings.
- * The meeting or postadoption sibling contact agreement would be contrary to the safety and/or well being, such as the emotional or physical detriment of the prospective adoptive child.
- * The prospective adoptive child, age ten or older, requests the meeting not occur.

Why is KCDHS having Postadoption Sibling Contact meetings?

Effective January 1, 2017, a change in the State law regarding Senate Bill 1060 - Postadoption Contact: Siblings of Dependent Children or Wards, was enacted. The KCDHS Adoption Agency is required to convene a meeting with the prospective adoptive child, his/her sibling(s), the prospective adoptive parent(s) and a facilitator for the purpose of deciding whether to voluntarily execute a postadoption sibling contact agreement.

How often are Postadoption Sibling Contact Meetings held?

Postadoption Sibling Contact Meetings are usually held one time; however, they may occur more than once if the prospective adoptive child is removed from his/her prospective adoptive home after the meeting was originally held and the adoption had not yet finalized. The Postadoption Sibling Contact meeting is held after the termination of parental rights, which occurs at a 366.26 Hearing, and no later than 60 days prior to the first 366.3 Review Hearing.

