

## What is post adoption mediation?

Sometimes families involved in open adoption need help developing an ongoing relationship with the other parts of the adoption triad. Catholic Social Services is here to provide third-party, impartial mediation services to help both adoptive parents and birth parents express their needs and wishes, and develop a plan for future contact. Catholic Social Services uses a model that is similar to vision merging, in that Adoption and Pregnancy Support Coordinators will have discussed individual expectations with the families prior to the vision merging session.

## What services are offered?

The first step in vision merging is for both parties to consider what their expectations are regarding type and frequency of contact. The Infant Adoption Coordinator will meet with the adoptive parents, and the Pregnancy Support Advocate will meet with the birth parents to discuss their expectations and prepare for the joint mediation session. CSS will facilitate the mediation session and give both parties the opportunity to voice their wishes. Adoptive parents and birth parents will then create a plan for future contact. CSS will debrief with both adoptive parents and birth parents after the mediation session.

## What is the cost for post adoption mediation services?

Mediation is offered free of charge to all adoptive and birth families that completed their adoption through CSS. The charge for other families will be determined after a brief discussion about your mediation needs.

**For more information,  
please contact:**

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