



OUR NATIONWIDE SERVICES.

HAVE A LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD, NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE IN THE U.S.

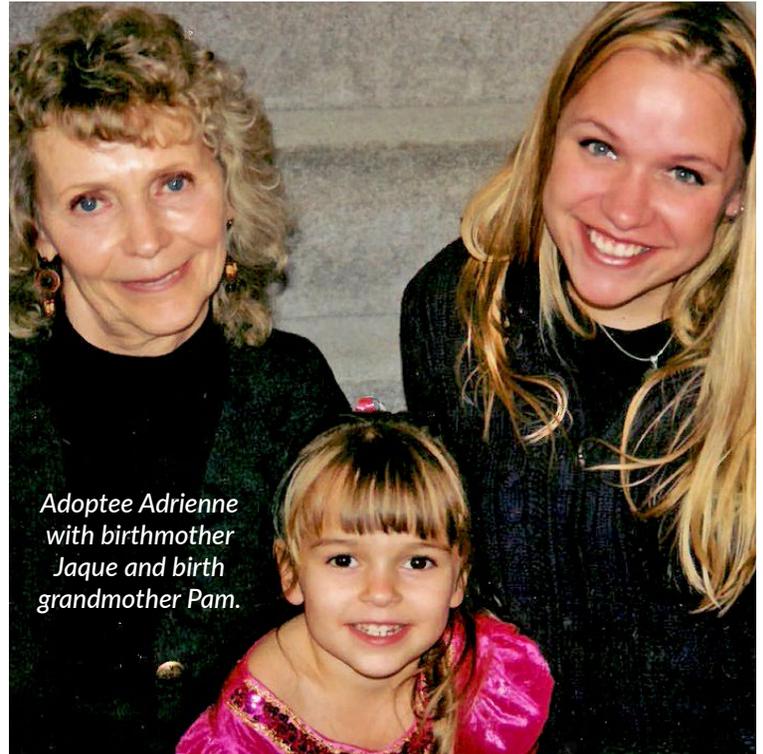
Expectant parents who live outside the Northwest choose OA&FS for our unique services that can't be found at other agencies:

- It's easy to connect with our counselors, who are compassionate, respectful and knowledgeable.
- Our all options pregnancy counseling is emotionally safe and free of judgment.
- We provide unbiased, accurate information and trust expectant parents to make the decision that feels best to them.
- Our agency process is high integrity. Many agencies are religiously affiliated, casting shame and judgment. Their views of "open adoption" are limited and often don't endorse or provide guidance for ongoing visits.
- We welcome diverse families who are straight, gay, married, single, all ethnicities and religions.

Jaque answers questions and shares her personal views about planning an adoption from another state on our website.



**[Go to tinyurl.com/
birthmotherjaque](https://tinyurl.com/birthmotherjaque)**



Adoptee Adrienne with birthmother Jaque and birth grandmother Pam.

“In Montana at the time, all the agencies were religiously affiliated. I'd done my research and knew I wanted to explore open adoption, so I called OA&FS.”

– Birthmother Jaque

- All of our families are seeking an extended family relationship with the birth family.
- Our families, regardless of where they live, will regularly travel to visit them throughout the child's life.
- We present an abundance of information on the families, provide the tools to have a relationship with them and create a legally enforceable agreement for ongoing visits.



Adoptee Teo with birthmother Sage.

BIRTHMOTHER SAGE: WHY I CHOSE ADOPTIVE PARENTS WHO LIVE IN ANOTHER STATE.



How did you come to the decision to place your child with a family that doesn't live close by?

Proximity wasn't my first consideration. I chose OA&FS because of their mission. I knew that if I was working with the right organization who shared my belief in non-religious and non-traditional family adoptions that the distance wouldn't be a burden. And we were right!

How has the relationship grown despite the distance?

Technology is our friend! We Facetime, we email, and we text regularly just to send silly photos or check in on life. We make cross country visits every year. We learn from each other and laugh together like old friends so the distance has not felt like a barrier.

Do you have any regrets that you didn't choose a family in your home state?

I worked really hard with my counselor, Sari at OA&FS to talk through all my options. This included how I would feel about the family living really close and running into them unexpectedly at the grocery store versus so far away you have to fly. It was really important for me to visualize myself in various scenarios to help decide what was best for our son

to ensure he felt loved. Because I was able to be honest with myself, I was able to come to healthy decisions that I've not regretted.

I miss them dearly because they're my family but I haven't lived in the same state as any family for over a decade so it feels normal.

Do you have any advice for other birthmothers considering an open adoption with a family in another state?

This entire process is scary and huge. Honor that strength within yourself and try to let go of the fear of "doing it wrong." Be really honest with yourself about what you want out of this open adoption relationship and ask yourself lots of hard questions now. Great people can bridge any time or space gap so focus on choosing great people.

Do you think there's a need for OA&FS to extend its reach to expectant parents throughout the country?

We remind each other in pure amazement six years later that we were given the gift of building a family together that supports and nurtures our little boy. That is our only job. We live humbly in that gratitude which makes the rest of it easy. Open adoptions should be available as an option for all families.



OPEN ADOPTION & FAMILY SERVICES
1-800-772-1115 **OPENADOPT.ORG**

TEXT "OPEN" TO 971-266-0924 (M-F 9A-5P PST). PARA ESPAÑOL 1-800-985-6763.