

**Adoption Competency and Trauma-Informed
Practices With Adoptive Families**
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Deadline: November 1, 2016
(Complete the form below)

The tides of adoption have shifted remarkably, both in the United States and internationally, for all participants in the lifelong adoption journey. Many of today's adoption policies, services, and practices lag behind these shifts, resulting in a lack of relevant knowledge, supports, and services. Examples of these shifts include:

- Growing awareness of the trauma children experience prior to adoption, its impact on adoptive families, and challenges original families experience as well.
- How adoption is reconceptualizing the extended family, including diverse family forms and a renewed emphasis on sustaining the child's connections with biological kin and/or the country and culture of origin.
- Specialized knowledge and skills that adoptive and original parents, and professionals, need to enhance adoption success.
- Emerging engagement methods and norms, such as ways the Internet and social media shape the pre- and postadoption experiences.
- Evolving ethical standards with regard to secrecy versus transparency and full disclosure, as well as clients' autonomy and self-determination versus professionals' paternalism and prerogatives.

This special issue of *[Families in Society](#)* seeks manuscript proposals that promote a trauma-informed and adoption-competent professional community equipped to support all members of the new family formed by adoption, including biological, adoptive, and fictive kin.

Examples of Manuscript Applications

- Describe an evidence-informed practice related to the above challenges.
- Identify empirically supported and emerging tools to help measure and understand adoption competency and trauma-responsive adoptions.
- Identify the "fit" between original and adoptive families' experiences and the programs and services available to guide and support them.
- Explore issues regarding transracial and LGBTQ adoptive families.
- Offer guidelines for addressing cultural and ethical challenges in today's adoption landscape.
- Present findings from demonstration projects and other initiatives focused on adoption.

Manuscripts must include a section on implications for practice and/or policy. Submissions may be a: (a) research report; (b) policy analysis; (c) systematic review or examination of historical trends; (d) conceptual framework to guide thinking; and (e) case study to illustrate a paradigm shift.

Special Issue Instructions and Deadlines

- November 1, 2016: Proposals due
- November 31, 2016: Editors will notify contributors of selected manuscript proposals.
- January 13, 2017: Invited contributors submit manuscripts for peer review.
- March 17, 2017: Editors will determine manuscript dispositions.
- April 21, 2017: Contributors of accepted manuscripts will submit final revisions.
- August 2017: Estimated publication.

Questions? Manuscripts@FamiliesInSociety.org