

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE**  
**FACILITATOR SUBCOMMITTEE**

TO: American Academy of Adoption Attorneys, Board of Trustees

FROM: Lynn Bodi, Chair

DATE: February 19, 2003

**Introduction**

At the midyear meeting in Nashville last October, this Committee made a preliminary recommendation that the ///A prepare a balanced, accessible article aimed at potential adoptive parents, educating them about the adoption process and facilitators. We recommended that the ///A offer the piece to the publications/sites that adoptive parents visit, such as adoption.com, Adoptive Families magazine, etc., in order to increase our opportunity to educate on the front end and perhaps enhance the ///A's reputation. The Committee recommended, and the Board agreed, that any written work should be balanced and educational.

The Board agreed with the Committee's recommendations and requested that we do the following by the time of the Board meeting in February:

- Draft suggested educational pieces that could be used in various sites or publications.
- Prepare a budget relating to dissemination of the information.

**Discussion**

Attached is a draft of a document entitled "FAQs About Adoption Professionals." Originally, the thought was that we would prepare a piece aimed primarily at potential adoptive parents. We were able to aim these FAQs at both adoptive and birth parents. We should make sure that, once finalized, this document is copyrighted. I'm told this is pretty easy.

Also attached is a list of potential sites to contact to see whether they would be interested in publishing these FAQs. This list is by no means exhaustive. I have

made preliminary calls to Susan Caughman and *Adoptive Families* and to Adam Pertman at Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute to see if they would be receptive to such a piece. I have not yet heard back from Susan. I spoke with Adam. He thought our approach “made enormous sense.” He was not sure if it could appear on the Evan B. Donaldson website, as they publish more pure research type of material, but he said he could envision a part of the website where adoption professionals could make their views public. He also thought that, if he could get funding, the Adoption Institute might turn this issue into a project of its own, but using the ///A as one of its resources.

We suspect that our membership would have zillions of potential places to publish the FAQs (*e.g.* websites, newsletters, support group publications) that we haven’t thought of and wouldn’t know about. We should draw on our resources.

With regard to a budget, try as I might, I can’t think of anything to spend money on at this point. Therefore, the proposed budget is zero. The budget amount could change if the Board decides that the ///A should print these FAQs as some sort of handout. The Committee does not recommend that at this time. The FAQs will have more credibility if they appear in publications or on the internet. Of course, the FAQs should also appear on our website. Members should be able to print these out as handouts, at their own expense, if they wish.

## **Recommendations**

The Committee requests that the Board do whatever of the following it pleases:

1. Approve the attached “FAQs About Adoption Professionals” in its current form.
2. In the alternative, if the FAQs really need help, remand them to the Committee with recommendations for change.
3. Authorize the Committee to do what is necessary to copyright the document as the ///A’s.
4. Authorize the Committee to pursue sites and publications for publication of the final document on behalf of the ///A, and to arrange for such publication.
5. Authorize the Committee to explain to the membership what we’ve done and to solicit suggestions and assistance from the membership for other potential publication sites.

Respectfully submitted.