Adoption and Foster Care Therapist Network  
Mission & Listserv Guidelines

Revised March 2020

The mission of the Adoption & Foster Care Therapist Network (AFCTN) is to enhance the ability of individuals impacted by adoption and foster care to have access to mental health professionals who have a clinical expertise in adoption, foster care, trauma, and/or attachment issues. The Adoption & Foster Care Therapist Network is a program of the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York (AFFCNY). The Adoption & Foster Care Therapist Network works to achieve its mission by:

1) Promote accessibility to adoption and foster care competent mental health professionals through Adoption and Foster Family Coalition of NY’s website, and other marketing/networking opportunities to make it easier for individuals to find an adoption and foster care competent mental health professionals.

2) Enhance adoption and foster care competency knowledge base of mental health professionals by
   a. AFCTN hosting professional development programs for mental health professionals on adoption and foster care issues. The professional development trainings will be open to all mental health professionals.
   b. Posting of professional development opportunities and resources on AFCTN listserv

3) Increase the number of adoption and foster care competent mental health professionals by:
   a. Marketing adoption and foster care professional development training opportunities to AFCTN members on the listserv and encouraging listserv members to publicize trainings to their colleagues not in the AFCTN.
   b. Publicize adoption competency trainings to the wider community of mental health professionals with the help of the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition marketing opportunities and AFCTN member activities/connections.
   c. Encourage AFCTN members to discuss the need for adoption competency training to colleagues during networking opportunities with peers.

4) Increase communication amongst adoption and foster care competent mental health professionals by maintaining the AFCTN listserv on Google Groups for mental health professionals. See below for information on the details of the AFCTN listserv.

The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition NY allows AFCTN members to self-identify themselves as having adoption/foster care competent clinical training, and experience working with adoption and foster families. Mental health professionals in the AFCTN are listed on the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York’s website in the Therapeutic Services section of the AFFCNY online foster care and adoption services directory. The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition NY does not verify the background of mental health professionals included in the AFCTN. At this time, AFCTN is limited to mental health professionals in New York state.

AFCTN Listserv Guidelines & Rules

The AFCTN listserv provides an opportunity for listserv members to engage with a network of peers to connect, discuss, and share knowledge, information, and professional resources. This platform provides an opportunity for members to:

- Share information on best practice of clinical issues
- Share professional development opportunities
- Serve as a source for referrals
• Share relevant community resources

Adoption and Foster Care Therapist Network members should understand that:
• Posting sent through the listserv does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition NY.
• The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition and its program AFCTN is not responsible for any listserv postings distributed on the listserv or the activity of listserv members
• The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition staff will review all messages and retain the right to discontinue an AFCTN’s member’s participation in the listserv and being a member listed on the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition NY’s website for failure to follow listserv rules and guidelines

To ensure a positive working environment for members to interact, AFCTN requires that all listserv members adhere to the following guidelines and rules:

Guidelines for Listserv Use:
• Posting should be concise. When appropriate attach a pdf file or include a link to a website for more information. When seeking information please post your email where individuals can contact you directly.
• Use appropriate professional behavior when posting to the listserv. The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition NY encourages listserv members to share their thoughts and opinions in a way that is professionally respectful to others. This includes civility, respect, and open-mindedness. Harsh criticism of a colleague that has a different viewpoint is unacceptable and will be grounds for termination of being allowed to participate in the AFCTN. This includes but not limited to demeaning comments that refer to colleagues’ level of competence or an individuals’ attributes such as race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, adoption triad status, and mental or physical disability.
• When a listserv member asks for information/resources, the response should be emailed directly to the individual making the inquiry. Listserv members should not use the listserv for direct communication. This is to keep listserv members from receiving emails that are personal communication between professionals.
• With the AFCTN listserv not being a secure form of communication that can provide confidentiality, any mention of an individual’s identifying information or background for the purpose of a referral is not allowed. Please avoid mention of the age or hometown of the individual. Suggested format: I am seeking a therapist in Manhattan with a specialty in trauma therapy with youth.

Topics for Discussion on the AFCTN Listserv

The goal of the listserv is to promote communication among members of AFCTN on a variety of topics that pertain to adoption and foster care competency of mental health professionals. This includes:
• Seeking information from AFCTN members on adoption, foster care, attachment, and trauma issues.
• Professional development opportunities including but not limited to conferences, books, research, online resources, trainings
• Inquiries for referral sources for individuals with adoption and foster care issues
Topics not permitted on the AFCTN listserv:
- Advocacy issues. Advocacy issues should be brought to the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition directly.
- The promotion of services offered by listserv members other than professional development opportunities. Promotion of supervision, support groups, or other services is not permitted. The only time a service can be mention is if a listserv member inquires about the availability of a service. Professional development opportunities (trainings, books) can be posted only once.
- Posting of office space availability or employment opportunities is not permitted.
- Postings that are not specific to the mission of the AFCTN are not allowed. This is being asked so that listserv members are only receiving emails on topics that signed up for.

Adhering to AFCTN-S Listserv Guidelines
The Adoption and Foster Family Coalition NY is committed to providing a positive environment for listserv members and thus, reserves the right to remove posting privileges of listserv members who violate the Listserv Guidelines. Being a member of the Adoption and Foster Care Therapist Network is a privilege, not a right.
The process for removal from the listserv is as follows:
- A notice will be sent to the member with a reminder of the rules and explanation of the violation. This will include a mention that a second violation will result in not being allowed to post on the AFCTN listserv
- If there is a second violation of a rule, a listserv member will lose posting privileges but be able to remain on the listserv to receive posting
- If there is unprofessional behavior by a listserv member on the listserv, the Adoption and Foster Family Coalition NY has the right to discontinue list the mental health professional on its website as a mental health provider and to remove them from the listserv.

How to post on the AFCTN
Go to https://groups.google.com/forum/#!overview
- Login to google groups with the email you joined the listserv with
- In the left column, click my groups
- AFCTN should appear on left
- Click red button post
- Write the post and then hit post

How to unsubscribe
You can unsubscribe from the listserv at any time by clicking the unsubscribe button at the bottom of an AFCTN email. Listserv members can also unsubscribe by logging into the AFCTN google group and click remove me from the list.

Joining the listserv
Mental health professionals who are adoption and foster care competent can ask to join the listserv by emailing the AFCTN listserv coordinator Marie Dolfi at mdolfilcsrw@gmail.com who will send a AFCTN Google group invite.