

General Discussion Meetings

2022 Dates and Locations

General Discussion Meetings, sometimes referred to as General Meetings, provide a safe place where people can share their feelings and experiences, get support from their peers, and learn from others' perspectives. The meetings have an open discussion format and are attended by adult adoptees, birthparents, siblings, and adoptive parents. Professionals are also welcome to come and learn. The meetings are also pertinent and helpful to those who have experienced foster or kinship care, or DNA discoveries such as misattributed parentage or donor-conception.



- No Charge — attendees are encouraged to become Adoption Network Cleveland members.
- **Please note that all meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future during their scheduled dates and times.** Our Virtual General Discussion Meetings meet via video conference (which can be accessed through a home computer/laptop, tablet, or mobile phone) and will require an internet connection or phone data connection.
- Preregistration is required for our virtual meetings through our website calendar at <https://bit.ly/CalendarANC>.

Virtual General Discussion Meetings

First Thursday • 7-9 p.m. ET

Facilitated by Linda & Elaine

Jan. 6, Feb. 4, **March 3**, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1.

Special Topics:

March 3 - Ambiguous Loss

Third Thursday • 7-9 p.m. ET

Facilitated by Dottie & Estes

Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15.

Special Topics:

January 20 - Setting Intentions for 2022

Second Tuesday • 7-8:30 p.m. ET

Facilitated by Marni & Mindy

Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, **May 10**, June 7, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13.

Special Topics:

May 10 - Ethical Issues and Landmines

Fourth Thursday • 8-10 p.m. ET

Facilitated by Barbara & Dan

Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 24, **April 28**, May 26, June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27, Dec. 22, (No meeting in Nov.)

Special Topics:

April 28 - The Male Perspective in Adoption

Second Wednesday • 7-9 p.m. ET

Facilitated by Kim & Denice

Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, **June 8**, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14.

Special Topics:

June 8 - Maintaining Healthy Boundaries

Meetings with a Specific Focus

While most of our meetings welcome all who are impacted by adoption and foster care, we do have a few meetings that have a specific focus.

DNA Discovery Support Group facilitated by Becky & Oliver

First Tuesday, 8-10 p.m. ET

Jan. 4, **Feb. 1**, March 1, April 6, May 3,
June 1, July 5, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4,
Nov. 1, Dec. 6.

Special Topics:

February 1 - Redefining Family

If you have either found family using commercial DNA testing or been found by family who used commercial DNA testing (examples of commercial DNA testing include Ancestry, Family Tree DNA, 23&Me, My Heritage, etc.) then this is the group for you. You do not need to have a formal adoption connection to be in this group, but you do need to have a DNA discovery for this group to be relevant to you. Examples include individuals with a known connection to adoption such as birth/first parents, grandparents, and siblings, adoptees, donor-conceived individuals; also, individuals with unexpected parentage results among those not adopted such as unknown child discovery, unexpected niece, nephew, or cousin discovery, individuals discovering they are donor-conceived or adopted (late discovery adoptees); anyone who has who found unknown siblings. international adoptees connecting to family including cousins, unexpected grandparent discoveries, and the many other scenarios that are surprising folks with today's widespread commercial DNA testing. The focus of our DNA Discovery Support Group will be the emotional journey of DNA discoveries, we will not be discussing technical aspects.

Special Topics

While the majority of meetings are open discussions, one group per month will offer a discussion based on a special topic. Upcoming topics include:

- Thursday, January 20 – Setting Intentions for 2022
- Tuesday, February 1 – Redefining Family
- Thursday, March 3 – Ambiguous Loss
- Thursday, April 28 – The Male Perspective in Adoption
- Tuesday, May 10 – Ethical Issues and Landmines
- Wednesday, June 8 – Maintaining Healthy Boundaries
- July - TBD
- August - TBD
- September - TBD
- October - TBD
- November - TBD
- December - TBD



For more information

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THE OHIO FAMILY CONNECTION
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