

# What Every Parent Attorney Needs to Know About Post-Adoption Contracts II

Sponsored by the N.C. Office of the Parent Defender

via WebEx

Tuesday, May 19, 2025

12:30-1:30pm

## AGENDA

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Post-Adoption Contracts: What are they? What do you need to know?

***Stephanie Smith, MSW, Child Custody & Visitation  
Mediation Program,***

***N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts***

***Annick Lenoir-Peek, Parent Defender,***

***N.C. Indigent Defense Services***

HB612 added a new provision allowing parents to sign specific relinquishments if they and the adoptive family can agree on what contact will be permitted post-adoption. These agreements are legally enforceable. Here is what attorneys need to know to advise their clients.

### **Stephanie C. Smith**

Stephanie, a native New Orleanian, received her master's degree in clinical social work from NYU. Before moving to North Carolina, her work included counseling at a Brooklyn methadone treatment center, teaching/coaching with the Resolving Conflicts Creatively Program and managing of the city-wide NYC employee assistance program. After moving to North Carolina, she was the first mediator to be hired for the new Wake County custody mediation program. Stephanie worked there for a decade before accepting the position at the NCAOC.

### **Annick Lenoir-Peek, Parent Defender**

Annick received her JD from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1994. She began representing parents in A/N/D and TPR cases in 1998 in South Carolina prior to moving to North Carolina. She has practiced in this area of law exclusively since 2002, including two years as an agency attorney. Her focus has been representing parents at the appellate level since 2002. She was certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children in 2015 and by the North Carolina State Bar in 2022. Ms. Lenoir-Peek joined the office in June 2008. In May 2025 she was appointed by the IDS Commission as the Parent Defender.