

**SAMPLE AGENDA FOR SCREENING DAY: (be sure to test the equipment and dvd in advance)**

1. LIST OF FOLKS WHO ATTEND: Pass around attendance sheet.

2. INTRODUCTION:

- introduce yourself and the film

(*ADOPTED: for the life of me* took four years to make. Filmmaker, Jean Strauss, made it with the goal of helping people step into an adopted person's shoes to better understand the need for reform, and to encourage a discussion about people's concerns and hopes within diverse communities across the country.)

- set agenda – this is what we're doing today: i.e. watch the film, discussion after, then coffee.

- set ground rules (this can lead to a safer environment in which questions can be asked)

- all opinions are relevant: this is about learning, not judging

- the moderator determines who will speak – no one should interrupt a person except the moderator if someone is running over allotted time (we recommend

- no longer than 60 seconds for comments. Encourage people who want to share their reunion story to wait until the reception afterward.

3. ENGAGEMENT: Engage your audience in advance with questions:

- What stake do audience members have, if any? Are they members of the triad, a social worker, legislator, community members?

- What age do you think when you hear adoptee?

- What circumstances come to mind when you think of a birthparent?

- Why do you think laws were created insuring adoptees and bp's should never see each other again?

4. SCREENING: Watch the film. If you only have time for a half hour screening, you can jump between chapters to tailor-make the film to your needs.

5. REFLECTION and DISCUSSION:

Ask people – how do they feel?

What scene affected them individually the most, and why?

Now when I say "adoptee" what is the image in your mind? How about birthmother?

What do you think about the need for some adopted adults to have access to their records?

What is the opposition to this need?

Is the film about adoption? Or the secrecy in adoption?

6. LEGISLATIVE REFORM: If there is legislation in your area, a brief discussion of what's going on, who the groups are that are involved pro and con, which legislators are involved.

What is a clean bill? (legislation that allows all adopted citizens access with no restrictions)

Why is change difficult in some states? Discuss the realities of legislation.

7. TAKING ACTION:

What can we do?

- Sign up on the Adoption Reform ACTION! List to receive alerts about critical legislative moments.

- Write letters to legislators, newspapers, blogs,

- Share stories – learn to get to the heart of your story. Can you tell it in a minute?

- Join local and national groups.

8. Wrap up and thanks. Keeping the post screening agenda to twenty minutes or so will allow people an opportunity to talk and share afterward. Be sure to pass out any materials, Taking Action Sheets, information about local organizations, support groups, etc.