

Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao
Biographical Sketch

Dr. Joyce Maguire Pavao, (Ed.D., LCSW, LMFT), was the Founder and CEO of Center For Family Connections, Inc. (CFFC-1995-2012) in Cambridge and New York, the AdOption Resource Center (ARC) - est. 1973 in Cambridge, the Pre/post Adoption Consulting Team (PACT - 1978-2015) in Cambridge, and Family Connections Training Institute (FACT - est. 1995) in Cambridge and New York.

She is a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). She is a member and past Director of the American Adoption Congress, former Board member of the Open Door Society of Massachusetts, Board member of the Kinship Alliance in Monterey, California, and Board member of the Education and Policy Board of Adoptive Families of America in Minneapolis. She served on the Practice Board of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute in New York, the Editorial Board of Adoptive Families magazine and Fostering Families magazine, the Board of Directors of the Home For Little Wanderers in Boston, and the Adoption Advisory Board of the Child Welfare League of America. Dr. Pavao has received many awards and honors, including the North American Council for Adoptable Children (NACAC) award for Adoption Activist and Child Advocate of the Year, the Baran/Pannor award for Excellence in Open Adoption, and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption award for Angels in Adoption 2000, as nominated by Sen. Edward Kennedy and Congressman Mike Capuano.

Dr. Pavao has done extensive training, both nationally and internationally. She is a Lecturer in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and has lectured at Harvard, Smith, Wellesley, UCLA, USC and Antioch, among other universities. She has consulted various public and private child welfare agencies, adoption agencies, schools, and community groups, as well as probate and family court judges, lawyers, and clergy. Additionally, she has worked closely with individuals, couples, and families with adoption-related issues, foster care issues, guardianship and kinship, as well as complex families formed through reproductive technology, single parent families, gay and lesbian families, and families through remarriage.

Her constant chant is that adoption is about *finding families for children, not about finding children for families*, and although she is a family therapist with empathy for all parties, she keeps her focus on the best interests of the child. Her other mantra is that *it takes a community to hold a family* and the wider community needs to understand the Family of Adoption.

She has developed models for treatment, and for training using her systemic, intergenerational, and developmental framework The Normative Crises in the Development of the Adoptive Family (Family Therapy News, 1982) and her book The Family of Adoption (Beacon Press, 1998,2005) has received high acclaim. In addition, she is a contributing writer to Clinical Practice Issues in Adoption: Bridging the Gap Between Adoptees Placed as Infants and as Older Children, Groza and Rosenberg, ed. (Praeger Press, 1998), Creating Kinship, Roszia, Baran and Coleman, ed. (National Child Welfare Resource Center, 1997), Adoption Healing, Sprenger, ed. (New Zealand Adoption Trust, 1997), and Post Adoption Services: Emerging Themes, Issues and Interventions (Casey Family Services, 1995).

She states that more than her degrees and honors, her most valuable credential is that she has experienced life as an adopted person and she has love and great respect for both her birth and adoptive families.