

<i>Date:</i>	9/23/2025
<i>Subject:</i>	Q & A Surrender of an Adopted Child
<i>Category:</i>	Services
<i>Question:</i>	"I am wondering if anyone knows if Adoptive Parents can dissolve their adoption of a child they fostered. If so, what is the process for this. Any thoughts or suggestions would be helpful."
<i>Answers:</i>	"We have allowed a Voluntary Placement of an adopted child back into foster care by the adoptive parent. We have not been involved in any dissolutions so, a Voluntary Placement has been the preferred method. It is heartbreaking for all involved but usually for the best in the end. We have done this more than once unfortunately. These youth have had successful second adoptions. Also to note: When accepting a voluntary placement, make sure to ask the adoptive parents to turn over the adoption subsidy in lieu of support. There is a place on the Voluntary Placement Agreement to write this in." "We had one many years back (foreign adoption). We took a voluntary, then a surrender. There was also a PINS petition. The child ended up aging out of foster care because he didn't want to be adopted. The difficulty will probably be finding a placement if the adoptive parents are claiming that his/her behaviors are too extreme for them to handle." "No, they can't "dissolve". They could surrender their rights to LDSS (SSL 383-c), which would result in a termination order and again free the child for adoption. Or sign a SSL 358-a voluntary, place the child in foster care and retain rights." "We have not had anyone successful in "dissolving" an adoption, but we have a few cases over my years where an adopted child comes back into foster care and we have, ultimately, taken surrenders or otherwise freed the child again. With such small numbers of adoptive and foster parents in our county – we try to stay involved post-adoption if/as needed to support and offer to open a case to support – even if it has been a few years since the adoption."

Please [contact NYPWA](#) with any questions or further clarifications regarding these answers.