Contents

	Introduction	1
1	The later life letter: its role and purpose	2
	What is a later life letter?	2
	The legal basis	3
	Sharing personal data about parents, family members and foster carers	6
	What is the difference between the later life letter and the life story book?	8
	Why is it so important for young people to understand their past and why they were adopted?	9
2	The content of the later life letter	10
	Introducing yourself	10
	Subjects to be covered in the letter	12
	Addressing specific issues	23
	The social worker's role in planning for the child	32
	Legal and court issues	33
	Options for permanence	34
	Contact	36
	Siblings	38
	Matching	40
	Negative issues	42
	Concluding the letter	43
3	Writing the later life letter: points to consider	45
	Who writes the later life letter?	45
	How to write the later life letter	45
	Implications for the agency	49
4	How the later life letter is used	51
	The role of adoptive parents	51
	Social networking websites	53

Supplement: Guide for adoptive parents on how to use to later life letter	he 55
Background to the letter	56
How to use the later life letter	58
Questions for you as an adoptive parent before you share the later life letter	60
References	61
Appendix 1: Specific notes to accompany headings in later life letter	s 64
Appendix 2:	
Examples of later life letters	71
Example 1	71
Example 2	77
Letter from the relinquishing birth mother, Aduni,	
to her daughter, Enitan	84