

Long-Term Separation

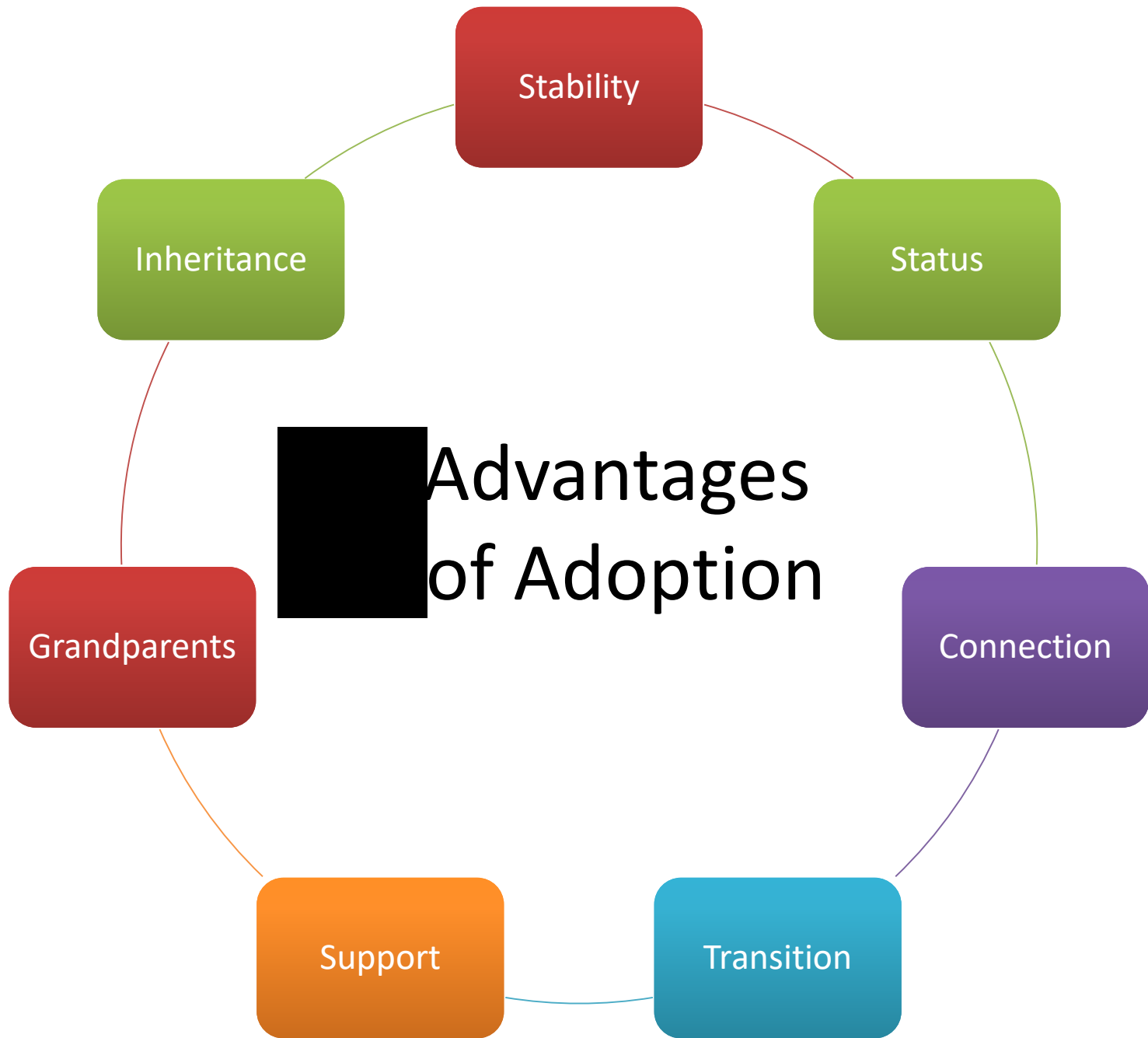
**OCWTP
FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, AND
ADOPTION PRESERVICE TRAINING**

You will be able to:

- ✓ Explain the benefits of permanency for children
- ✓ Identify issues that could result from long-term separation from birth parents and other important people in the child's life
- ✓ Describe situations or events that might trigger difficult to manage emotions resulting from long-term separation from birth parents and other important people in the child's life

A blue speech bubble with a white question inside. The bubble has a tail pointing towards the bottom left.

Why do we need to talk
about permanency?



Adopted youth



- Complete high school
- Complete college
- Employed
- Adequate income



- Teen parents
- Substance abuse
- Mental health problems
- Arrests and incarcerations

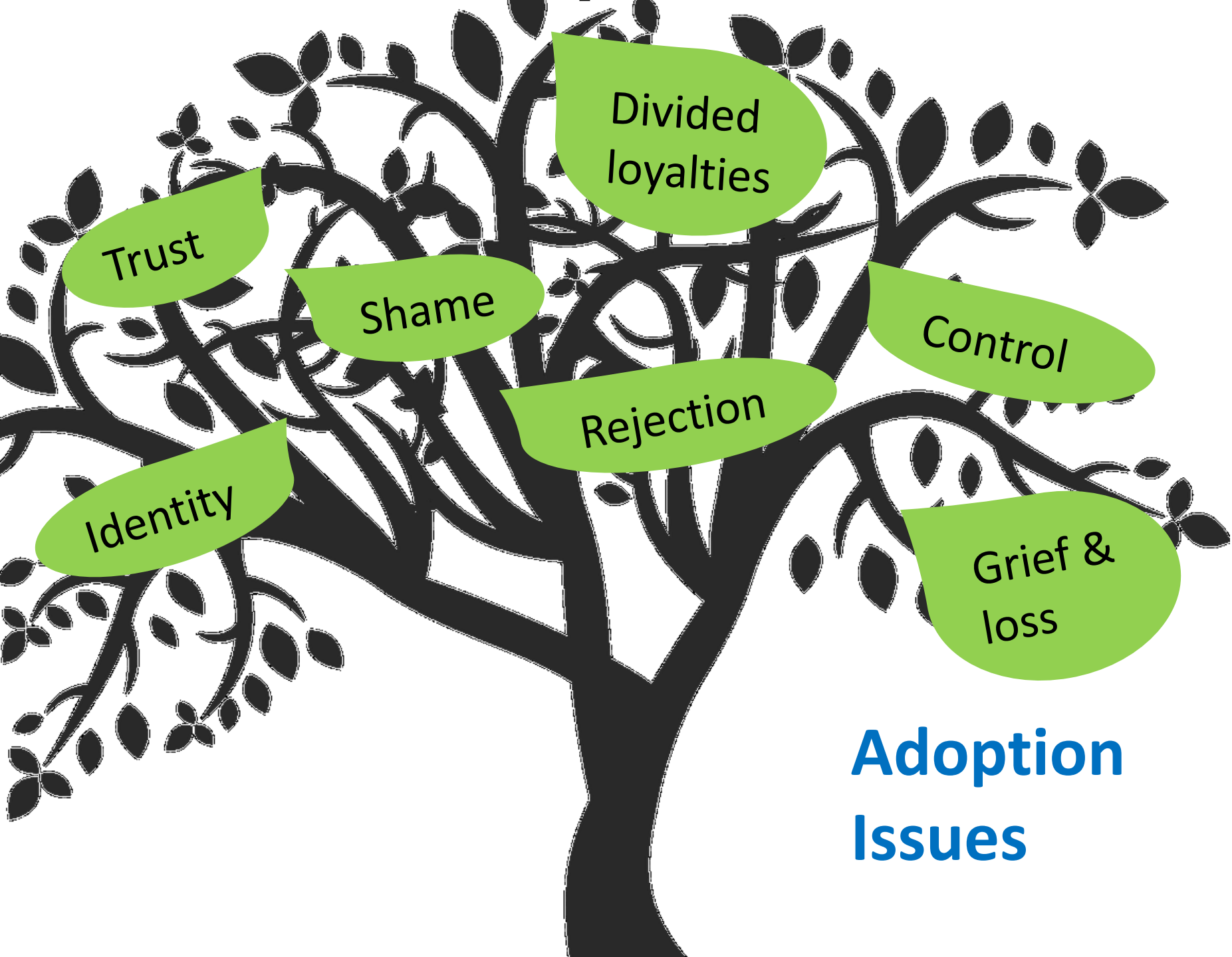
Challenges





3

Help your child to understand and manage overwhelming emotions



Trust

Shame

Rejection

Divided loyalties

Control

Identity

Grief & loss

Adoption Issues



#1

Grief

and

Loss

Ambiguous Loss



Your Turn!

Why?

- Why might the child feel this way?

How?

- What behaviors tell you the child is struggling with this issue?

When?

- When might you see these behaviors?



#2 Control

#3 Divided Loyalty





#4
Rejection

#5 Shame and Guilt





#6
Trust

#7 Identity



If trigger events are **recognized** and **anticipated**, adoptive parents can sometimes **minimize** the impact of the event by **addressing the issue**, not the behavior.



Understanding Developmental Issues

0 to 3 years

**Foundational
work**





To do:

Help them learn
the words.

3 to 6 years

**Little
understanding**





To do:

Help them
understand they
did not cause the
separation.

7 to 12 years

**Realization
of loss**





To do:

Help them come
to terms with
their loss.

12-15 years

**Identity
confusion**





To do:

Help them form
an identity.

16-18 years

**Anxiety about
emancipating**





To do:

Help them understand
emancipation will not
sever the relationship



Adoption in Adulthood

It's like a pebble
in a shoe.

One person's journey





1

Permanency provides lifelong
connections.

2

Emotional issues that could result from long-term separation include control, trust, and identity.

3

Examples of triggers related to the stress of long-term separation from birth parents include being highly upset if picked up late from school, being withdrawn and moody on Mother's Day, and being very self-critical for not making the school debate team



Thank you!

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