

Things to Consider Before Releasing Your Information for Continued Correspondence

“Should I keep corresponding with my sponsored child after they are no longer part of Compassion’s sponsorship program?”

Keeping in touch with the child you’ve sponsored over the years could be very gratifying. However, it may also present difficulties. **Please keep the following points in mind as you make your decision:**

1. Compassion International and its covenant partners will be unable to provide translation services for correspondence. As well, Compassion will not be able to assist in the transfer of any monies.
2. Life events and becoming more mature can lead a formerly sponsored child to become less interested in corresponding with a sponsor. It’s no different than would be the case of one’s own children.
 - * Marriage often reduces the amount of contact between newly-married children and the adults who helped them toward maturity.
 - * Post-secondary education and its related schedule demands can lead to less correspondence from a child.
 - * The demands of adjusting to adulthood and a full-time job can often keep two parties from getting in touch as frequently as one might expect.
 - * Family demands can take a toll on a person’s discretionary time and income—and frequently do in the countries Compassion serves.
3. Mail delivery services are far less sophisticated and reliable or even non-existent in parts of developing countries. In fact, if your formerly sponsored child lives in a remote location, it might be nearly impossible to send correspondence, packages, or money by mail.
4. The release of your information to your formerly sponsored child could make your data accessible to their relatives, friends or acquaintances. If someone should gain access to your information, they may attempt to use it for personal gain through pressure on your formerly sponsored child, by requesting they ask you for money, or by communicating to you under the guise of being your formerly sponsored child and asking for money. It is not uncommon for some citizens of developing countries to go to extraordinary lengths in hopes to find foreign addresses they can contact for assistance. It’s also wise to consider that your formerly sponsored child might hope that by maintaining a correspondence relationship with you, that you would continue to supplement his/her income, and aggressively ask for the same.
5. In fairness to you, we must remind you, the sponsor, that your information is something entrusted to the child and indicates you are ready to maintain correspondence with the child. Such an expectation will almost certainly be created in your formerly sponsored child.

6. Compassion International has no direct programmatic influence on the life of a child once the child has departed from Compassion's program. Therefore, Compassion cannot and will not make any guarantees regarding the regularity and quality of the correspondence between a sponsor and their formerly sponsored child, nor of that child's continued satisfactory behavior and development.

7. Compassion strongly advises to not respond to Facebook or other social media communications under your formerly sponsored child's name, as there is no guarantee that it is actually them trying to contact you. Should you choose to communicate through social media, Compassion will not submit any inquiries regarding information or photos that you may see on your formerly sponsored child's profiles.

8. While Compassion has tried to facilitate this relationship, you will only receive your formerly sponsored child's contact information directly from them. There is no guarantee that they will contact you even though best efforts have been made to measure the child's interest.

On a final note, Compassion International will not be able to intervene in your formerly sponsored child's life once they have left the program. That is to say, Compassion does not have the resources to continue to research or investigate any issues that may arise.