

BIRTH MOTHER MOST ASKED QUESTIONS

We pride ourselves on providing personal, customized care for each birth mother. You are “our girls!” Each of you are unique and deserve attention to your particular needs. Whether you are 15 or 40; alone or with full family support ; whether it is your first pregnancy or your fifth, this is a scary time. This is not just about your pregnancy,

WHY WOULD I CONSIDER

ADOPTION? For whatever reason, right now you may not be ready to parent. You may want a two-parent home or more stability for your child. It may be the time to do something different.

DOES ANYONE NEED TO KNOW? No. If you lack support while making this plan for your child, we are here for you. If you choose to, our coordinators can help you discuss this with your family/children. All of our conversations are confidential.

CAN I CHOOSE THE FAMILY WHO WILL ADOPT MY BABY?

Absolutely! We will ask you what kind of family you have in mind and pull biographies of families that match your criteria. We will continue to show you bios until you find a family that really, really excites you!

WHAT KIND OF FAMILIES ARE AVAILABLE TO ADOPT MY BABY?

We have stable Indiana families waiting to adopt. You can choose from families with no children or families that have adopted or biological children already living in their home.



WHAT IF I'M OVERWHELMED AND CAN'T DECIDE? If you are overwhelmed and want less involvement, we can make it simpler. We can even choose the family for you.

HOW COMMITTED AM I TO YOU FOR ADOPTION?

There is no contract. If we can't meet your needs, there is no obligation. We only ask you to be honest about your feelings, your needs and your commitment. *We don't want anyone to get hurt.* We encourage you to tell us if you are feeling unsure about adoption.



GOD WOULDN'T GIVE ME SOMETHING I CAN'T HANDLE?

God has given you this choice. No matter what you decide God has given you this opportunity, knowing you can make the tough decision that is right for you and this child.

My Rights

WHEN DO I SIGN THE PAPERS? You will sign after the birth of your child, usually 24-48 hours later.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND? You can change your mind at any time during your pregnancy or after the birth-as long as you have not signed the adoption papers. .

WHAT IF I KNOW SOMEONE THAT WANTS TO ADOPT MY BABY? Doing a private adoption means there is no agency. You are still entitled to financial assistance and coordination no matter if you place your baby with a friend, family member or through a private adoption attorney.

Legal Questions

DO I HAVE TO NAME THE BIRTH FATHER? No. You do not have to identify the birth father according to Indiana Law.

WHAT IF I'M UNDER 18? It's still your decision. Your parents have no legal right to the child and there are no grandparent rights in the state of Indiana.

WHO PAYS MY MEDICAL BILLS? If you do not have Medicaid or insurance and you do an adoption, medical bills for you and the baby are paid by the adoptive family. If you choose to parent, of course, your first parental responsibility would be to apply for Medicaid or pay the medical bills for you and your baby.

DO I NEED TO GET MY OWN ATTORNEY? No. You do not need one, however, one can be provided for you.

CAN I GET LIVING ASSISTANCE? Yes. The state of Indiana allows for \$3000 of assistance with housing, living expenses, food, utilities and maternity clothes.

Preparing for Placement

HOW DO I TELL MY FAMILY? We can help. You'll be surprised how well they respond when they hear the confidence in your voice, feel your commitment and see your maturity. We can be present, if you wish, and help with this important step.



CAN I GET LETTERS, PICTURES & VISITS AFTER THE ADOPTION?

Yes. This is an important topic. You should discuss your wishes before placement so you are all in agreement. All of our families would like to share pictures and letters, and most will do visits after placement, if you wish.

WHAT IS OPEN ADOPTION? An open adoption is when you and the adoptive family share letters, pictures, and visits after placement.



HOW DO I DEAL WITH EVERYONE'S OPINION OF MY PREGNANCY?

We know the opinions of your parents, friends and family matter to you; but, ultimately what you think is most important. **No one has to live with this decision but you.**

CAN I SEE THE BABY IN THE HOSPITAL? Yes. You can choose the level of contact you have with your baby and your adoptive family in the hospital.

WHAT IF NO ONE IS SUPPORTIVE?

Many friends and family members will make promises to help you parent. Ask yourself if they have really come through for you in the past. You must make a decision you feel you can live with for the rest of your life.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY BABY WILL BE IN A GOOD HOME?

As a licensed agency, we do our own screening of our adoptive families. We can assure you they are stable, financially secure families in a solid marriage. They have passed five criminal and CPS screens, been approved as healthy by doctor physicals, and have presented proof of income via tax records and payroll stubs. They must attend sessions at our office, be visited by our social worker in their home and attend our home study class. When approved, they have a true understanding of your needs for communication and sharing and are happy to provide it.

WILL MY BABY GO TO A FOSTER HOME?

No. Your baby goes directly from the hospital to your adoptive family's home.



WHAT WILL MY CHILD THINK OF ME LATER? Our adoptive families have a strong respect for our birth parents and they want your child to feel that same love and respect for you. The home study is an educational process that covers when and how to tell the child they are adopted, how to handle their many questions as they grow and to give them a strong sense of confidence.



So call and ask us about adoption. There is no obligation, a friendly voice is just a phone call away.

WHY CHOOSE THE ADOPTION SUPPORT CENTER? We are women helping women. As a collection of caring women who are adoptive moms and birth mothers, we have personally experienced infertility and unplanned pregnancies. We know what it is like to be vulnerable and scared, to experience loss. Who could help you better? Our coordinators are tireless and passionate. They will respond to your calls and visit you quickly. During your pregnancy, they will help you navigate medical care, legal advice, financial burdens, birth fathers and adoptive families. Having former birth mothers just a phone call away will give you insight into the future, helping you to understand how you will feel later. And after you've placed, you will not be forgotten.