



ADOPTION

YOUR OPTIONS

THE BEST DECISION IS AN
INFORMED DECISION



IS ADOPTION EXPENSIVE?

Many agencies provide services to you at no cost. Assistance with medical and living expenses is often available. If costs are involved, they may be covered by the adopting family.

DOES THE BABY'S FATHER NEED TO KNOW?

The birth father's rights vary from state to state. An agency can help you determine his rights if you disagree about adoption.

QUESTIONS?

If you have specific questions, contact a local adoption agency and schedule a meeting. As you make the best plan for your child and yourself, they will provide you with advice and support.



DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet is designed to be an informational tool only. It is not intended to provide medical advice or replace care from a qualified medical practitioner.

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CONCERNS

HOW CAN I BE SURE MY BABY WILL HAVE A GOOD HOME?

Adoptive parents are extensively evaluated through a lengthy process. High standards that are set by the state and agency must be met before a family is allowed to adopt. Additionally, many agencies make post-adoption visits to check on the well-being of your child.

It's important to remember, you are in control throughout the adoption process. Agencies can provide you with information about prospective adoptive families. When planning your child's adoption, you can choose between an open adoption plan, a closed adoption plan, or somewhere in between.



HOW WILL I KNOW MY CHILD IS SAFE?

If you choose either an open or semi-open plan, you will be able to meet and begin a relationship with the adoptive parents before your child's birth. After your child is born and placed with the family, you will be able to continue this relationship and know your child is safe.



THE FUTURE

WHAT IF I WANT TO MEET MY BABY IN THE FUTURE?

Any contact with your child will depend on the type of adoption plan you choose.

An open adoption will allow you to always know and have contact with your child. Open plans allow for a relationship between the birth mother and the adoptive family. The degree of openness varies and can range from simply exchanging written information and photos to regularly scheduled visits.

A closed adoption plan maintains confidentiality for both the birth mother and the adopting family. Agencies will maintain records so that if a reunion is desired at some point in the future, the agencies will be able to assist in that reunion based on state laws.

* Please know, if you work with an agency, they will have a legal obligation to protect the privacy of the adoptive family, just as they will protect your privacy if you select a confidential adoption plan.

It's important to keep in mind that you can select the type of adoption with which you are most comfortable. Some agencies may offer post-adoption counseling.