

When do I have to decide about adoption?

You can decide at any point in your pregnancy or after the baby is born. Most birthmothers chose to place their child for adoption before their child is born. If a woman wants, she can also place her child in foster care while she makes the decision. However, many have found that making a commitment to adoption before the birth makes the placement easier for the birth mother.

What will others think of me for choosing adoption?

Those who care about you will understand. Most importantly, you will know that you have made the right and loving decision for you and your child.

How do birth parents feel after placing a child for adoption?

It's normal to experience grief after an adoption, but this sadness is a healthy part of life – it means you realize that healing must take place. Still, many birth mothers will say afterwards, that the peace of mind that came from knowing that you helped give your child the best possible start in life can be a real source of strength.

Will my baby be well taken care of?

Adoption agencies have long waiting lists of couples who are unable to have children and who are ready to love and raise a child. Authorities estimate that at least 15 to 20 couples wait for every healthy infant available, and many families are waiting to adopt babies who are born with handicaps. Many couples wait for years and years for a "chosen child." Some wait forever...

Will I know anything about my baby's new parents?

This depends on the degree of openness in an adoption. In confidential adoptions, birth and adoptive families do not exchange any identifying information (i.e. full names and addresses). With semi-open adoptions birthparents and adoptive parents will know each other by first names only, but an adoption agency or third party mediates all communication between families. Open adoptions permit the most contact between both families, which aids adjustment and eliminates the need for searching for birth parents later in life if the adopted child chooses to eventually do so.

Is adoption the easy way out?

No. It might be easier to announce, "It's my child and I'll take care of her somehow!" When you consider adoption it forces you to think about yourself and those who are close to you. Most especially, it forces you to consider your child's future. Adoption isn't an easy way out – it's a mature act of selfless love for your child. Adoption works! Please think about it.

For more information about adoption contact:

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Adoption
A Loving Choice

“I’m pregnant.”

When you first found out that you are pregnant you probably thought *Why me? What about my future? What am I going to do?*

When you find yourself unexpectedly pregnant you’ve got some major decisions to make. You owe it to yourself to take the time to explore your options and decide what is best for you and the tiny growing person inside you. This brochure was created to help you consider the possibilities. By reading it carefully you’ll be one step closer to making one of the most important decisions of your life.

Those who know you’re pregnant will probably have lots of advice for you. Some may say that you have a right to control your own body and that abortion is the best answer.

This may seem like an easy solution, but it isn’t. Most pregnancies aren’t even detected until the sixth week. By then, your baby’s heart has been beating for three weeks, brain waves can be read, the nervous system has been compete for about two weeks and she is about to begin moving, although you will not feel it for 3 months more.

Knowing all this, it’s hard to realistically believe that abortion is just a matter of controlling your own body. There are now two of you to consider. Abortion does nothing to help your unborn child, and it may have serious, far-reaching consequences for you.

Knowing that you ended your child’s life without giving her a chance can be a devastating emotional burden to carry. Also, physical complications from abortion are far more common than you might imagine. It could damage your reproductive system and make it impossible for you to have children later in life. Don’t allow yourself to be talked or forced into a decision that you may regret for years to come.

What do I do?

There are ways of looking at your pregnancy that respect both you and your baby’s lives. Think about focusing on choices that are positive and life-affirming, such as:

*Keeping your child yourself or within your family
Placing your child in foster care for a period of time
Placing your child for adoption*

Are you ready to be a parent?

What’s most important right now is deciding who can provide the best environment for your child’s physical and emotional upbringing. Ask yourself:

Am I capable of dedicating the next 18 or more years of my life to love and be responsible for my child, and to place concerns for his or her well being above my own?

Could raising a child include meeting my own school, career and social goals?

Could I do this without having to depend on my family to take over for me?

If you answer no to any of the above questions, you ought to seriously consider adoption as the best and most loving life-giving choice for you and your child. It may be difficult to imagine releasing for adoption the child who you’ve loved enough to give life and nurture for nine months. Still, why not try to open yourself to the possibility by trying to understand adoption better? The following questions will help you to grasp more fully the effect that adoption would have on your own life, and on that of your child and family.

What is adoption?

Adoption is a legal procedure, which places a child with adoptive parents who raise the child as a member of their own family.

Is adoption permanent?

Yes. The child legally becomes a permanent member of the adoptive family. Some states/provinces allow a period of time after the child is placed for the birth mother to reconsider her decision.

How is adoption done?

There are two main parts to adoption. Most obviously, the birth mother must agree to release her child for adoption. In some areas the father of the baby is also required to give consent. Likewise, a couple wanting to adopt a child must apply and be accepted as prospective adoptive parents by a government

approved agency. A thorough home study is done to ensure that the couple will be able to provide proper care and love for a child.

Am I selfish to consider adoption?

No. It means that you are concerned about being a good mother and sensible enough to realize that raising a child can be difficult, even with the help of family and friends. It’s not selfish to choose what is best for your and your baby. You have already given your child the ultimate gift -- Life.

Don’t children belong with their birth parents?

Sometimes a birth parent isn’t ready to raise a child. Adoptive parents may be better equipped to provide the permanence and security that children need.

Isn’t it better if I marry my boyfriend and we raise the baby?

Wanting to provide a secure family for your child shows your love and maturity because you realize that raising a child in a loving family is important. However, getting married just because you are pregnant is often a poor foundation for building a family. Marriage failures are high for those who marry under such pressures.

What if my parents and friends pressure me to keep the baby?

It may be hard for your parents and others to know that you are considering adoption. Your parents may be thinking of a grandchild, your boyfriend may think it’s his duty to be a father, and your friends may be thinking of a lovable and cuddly baby. Ultimately though, the decision to release your child for adoption or raise your baby yourself is one that you will have to live with for the rest of your life. It should be a decision that you make after you consider your options carefully.