

Adoption

Iowa has an interest in encouraging the choice of adoption over abortion and would like you to consider the following information. Adoption has long been an important option for individuals and society.

If you pregnant and hadn't planned to be...Adoption may right for you. Choosing adoption may seem like a hard decision but there are people that can help you make that decision and not feel so alone. You need to consider all of your options but you should know that adoption benefits many people. Adoption specialists can provide you with the information you need to make the best decision for you and your baby.

Common reasons women choose adoption

- She does not feel ready to be a parent
- She cannot afford to raise a baby
- She believes that parenting a baby will make it difficult to complete her goals (like school or work)
- She doesn't want to be a single parent
- She thinks adoption is the best chance for her child to be well cared for – financially and emotionally

How does it work?

Adoption is a *permanent legal* agreement that says you consent to place your child in the care of another person or family. Adoption processes are confidential. If you choose adoption, you are in charge of the process. You will have questions and should talk to an adoption counselor to make sure you have all of the information you need to feel comfortable that you are making the right decision for you and your baby.

There are several different types of adoption. You should understand the process before you choose an adoptive family for your baby.

Open Adoption – In open adoption there can be ongoing contact between birth families and adoptive families. With open adoption, you can determine how much or how little contact you wish to have in the future. An open adoption may include visits or you may choose to have only pictures or letters.

Closed Adoption – Closed adoptions are usually anonymous and little information about the birth family is provided. There will be no contact with the birth family or infant with a closed adoption.

Financial Help

There may be financial help available for things like food, transportation, maternity clothing and medical care. The adoption counselor will work with you on these issues.