



Open Adoption

 Adoptions From The Heart®

Fathers Are Important

Sometimes fathers feel forgotten in the adoption process. Adoptions From The Heart believes that fathers serve an important role. We encourage fathers to be active participants in adoption planning if they would like.

There can be a lot of misunderstanding about adoption, especially open adoption. You can speak with a counselor to learn about what adoption IS and IS NOT.

Open Adoption is when birth parents, adoptive parents, and the child exchange some level of contact after placement.

Choices In Open Adoption

You can choose the adoptive parents for your baby, choose to receive photos and updates, choose to meet the adoptive parents before the baby arrives and even to have visits after the child is born. You can also choose not to do any of these things. It is completely up to you.

Levels of Openness

There are different levels of open adoption ranging from closed adoption without any contact or involvement to totally open adoption with direct and frequent communication. Most adoptions fall in between and are called semi-open. These relationships usually include receiving pictures and updates as well as in-person visits.

*Find the Level of Openness
that Works for You*

Locations

Connecticut

860.657.2626

Delaware

302.658.8883

New Jersey

856.665.5655

732.335.8883

New York

800.355.5500

Virginia

757.361.0008

804.218.2569

Serving all of Pennsylvania:

Allentown Area

610.432.2384

Central PA

717.399.7766

Philadelphia

610.642.7200

Pittsburgh

724.853.6533

800-355-5500

TEXT 610-787-2453

afth.org



Adoptions From The Heart®

AFTH is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian agency
licensed in PA, NJ, DE, VA, CT and NY.

I Don't Know If Adoption Is Definitely What I Want

Whether you are just curious about adoption or are already sure it's the right decision, we are here for you to talk to, for support, and to answer all your questions while you explore all your options.

How Involved Do I Have to Be?

At a minimum, you will speak to a counselor to confirm your agreement with the adoption plan, provide your contact information, and sign legal paperwork. You can also choose and meet the family and have an open adoption relationship as your child grows up.

It's Not Just About the Mother... You Are Important Too!

What Are My Rights in Adoption?

You have equal rights in making a decision for your baby's future. Each state has different laws and your counselor can go in depth about your rights and responsibilities throughout the adoption process. You can also learn more in our "Your Rights About Parenting and Adoption" brochure.

Can I Have Ongoing Contact with My Child?

You are entitled to your own open adoption arrangement with the adoptive family. Those arrangements can be similar or completely different than the mother's. Speak with your counselor about the level of contact you want.

You may have other questions, and that is ok.

We will be glad to answer them too.

The Process is Tailored to Your Needs

What To Expect

1) Gather Information About Adoption

- Speak with an AFTH counselor, ask questions and discuss your options to find out if adoption may be the right choice.

2) Your Counselor Is There For You

- The counselor will help the mother obtain a doctor, medical assistance, housing, transportation to appointments, etc.
- Your counselor will support and advocate for you during the process.

3) Select A Family (*if you choose*)

- Review profiles and videos for the type of adoptive parents you would like.
- Get to know the family better by meeting them before your baby is born.

4) At The Hospital

- Discuss plans: time with the baby, adoptive parents' role at the hospital, etc.
- Discharge from hospital - baby will be discharged with the family you chose.

5) Legal Process

- Meet with your counselor to fill out the legal paperwork to complete your adoption plan.
- In many states, you can sign the legal paperwork before the baby is born.

6) Ongoing Support

- You can receive photos and letter or email updates and even have visits.
- Adoption is a life-long journey, your adoption counselor is here for you even after placement. Support groups are also available.

"I was in an on again off again relationship. Neither of us was ready to raise a child. We didn't have the means emotionally or financially to give our child the kind of upbringing that he deserves.

My son in a good home and I am in regular contact with him and his adoptive parents. I think about him and his parents every single day. While I miss him every day, I do not regret my decision at all. As hard as it is sometimes, I know that he is in good hands. He's got two parents who love him so much."

— Kevin

"She told me she was pregnant and wanted adoption. At first I was against it. I didn't know much about adoption then I learned open adoption is different. I can get updates and have visits. I'm sad I couldn't be the one to raise him but I'm glad he has a good life and still knows who I am." — **Malcolm**



**Call Us at 800.355.5500
Or Visit www.afth.org for More Information.**

