

Every Child, Every Family,
Every Step of the Way

ADOPTIONS TOGETHER

Pregnancy Counseling

“ I really appreciate everything that you have done for me and my baby and I will never forget it. I pray that I can keep in touch because you have really helped me through some hard times. - Jane



Since 1990, Adoptions Together has been a trusted resource for mothers in need of information regarding adoption and support services for unplanned pregnancy. Our free counseling can help you with your decision by informing you and the baby's father about your options.

Why Choose Adoptions Together?

- We offer **free** counseling to help you with your decision.
- We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Our waiting families have been investigated and have completed a home study.
- We ensure that adoptive parents send letters and photos as your child grows.
- We provide post adoption support for as long as you want it.
- We can assist with medical and legal costs; in Virginia certain living expenses can be paid as well.

The decision to place a child for adoption is never an easy one.

Each expecting parent has his or her own reason to look into adoption:

- You may feel you are not financially capable of supporting a child.
- You may feel that you are not emotionally ready for the responsibility.
- You may have little or no support from family.
- You and the baby's father may not be ready to parent together.



The important thing is that you are asking those questions. That concern shows that you care a great deal not only for your own health and wellness, but for that of your child.

Ultimately, you are the only person who will know for certain if you are prepared to become a parent. If you want more information about adoption, the counselors at Adoptions Together can help you develop a plan. You can make an educated decision that is the best fit for you and your child.

Find out more:

Visit us at www.adoptionstogether.org

Or call us at 301.439.2900

Maryland | DC | Virginia

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Choosing an Agency Over a Private Adoption

As a mother who wants to place her child for adoption, you have a number of options and you may consider a private adoption if you have someone in mind that you feel would be an excellent parent.

While it may seem beneficial to know the adoptive parents and be able to retain close contact if you are able to do so, the downside to private adoption is that adoptive parents are not required to have counseling or complete their home study before the adoption takes place.

When placing your child for adoption through Adoptions Together, the adoptive parents in waiting have *completed* their home study. They have undergone criminal history and background checks, and child abuse clearances have been performed. Each adoptive family has been educated on the complexity of adoption and is fully prepared for your child to join their family.

Unlike private adoption where you receive no post-adoptive support, our services don't stop when you relinquish your parental rights. We are available to provide all the counseling and support needed in the years to come. With private adoption, there is also no guarantee that you will obtain an open adoption in which you can maintain contact with your child. Adoptions Together ensures that adoptive parents continue to send letters and photos as your child grows – *and we work hard to make sure you receive them.*

The Benefit of Local Adoptive Parents

While it may seem ideal to look across the U.S. for adoptive parents, as that can give you a larger pool to select from, it is much more beneficial to search locally. Searching locally allows you to meet and personally know the adoptive parents. Should meetings be agreed on in an open adoption, a local family makes it easier for these visits to take place. Also, open adoption agreements are legally enforceable in our states so you can be confident your visits will occur.

The Adoption Process and Temporary Family Care

Several options are available to you after you have had your baby to help finalize the adoption and provide interim care.

If you are ready to do so, the baby can go home from the hospital with the adoptive family you have selected.

If you are still not quite ready for your baby to be placed with your chosen family, then your child can go home with one of our temporary families. These families will stay in touch with you to let you know how your baby is doing, and you will be able to visit your baby while we help you choose the right adoptive family.

You should never feel like you are alone in the decisions you are making. We have a vast array of support and resources to help you decide what's best for you and your baby.



Mission:

Adoptions Together builds healthy lifelong connections for every child and advocates for continuous improvement of systems that promote the well being of children.

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