




# **10 Things Everyone Should Know About Adoption**



## **1) If I choose adoption, does that mean I don't care?**

Every woman must make the choice that is right for her. If you choose adoption, it doesn't mean you forget or stop caring for your child. It is not an easy decision and you will feel sadness and loss afterwards. Reassurance can come from knowing that you chose adoption because you love and care so deeply about your child.

## **2) What should I look for in an adoption agency?**

Agencies should provide **options counseling** to women considering adoption. You shouldn't feel pressured to make an adoption plan. You have the right to take the time necessary to decide what is best for you and your baby. To find out more about your rights, make a confidential call to Spence-Chapin Adoption Agency at 1.800.321.5683. Our services are free and there is no pressure to choose adoption.

## **3) Do minors need their parent's permission?**

No, minors do not need their parents to agree to the adoption. However, a reputable agency will encourage involvement by supportive family and friends.

#### **4) What if I'm still unsure after my baby is born?**

Spence-Chapin Adoption Agency has a special program through which carefully chosen families provide temporary, in-home care for your baby while you decide on a plan.

***This is not foster care.***

During this time you can discuss your feelings about choosing adoption with a social worker and can visit with your baby. You retain full parental and legal rights during this time.

#### **5) How is the family for my baby chosen?**

You choose the family for your baby by looking at pictures and reading profiles of waiting families. Then, you can meet them to make sure they are the right family for your baby. The decision might be based on things like your race or heritage, religion, languages spoken or shared interests.

## **6) What if I used drugs or alcohol during pregnancy or have been told that my baby may have special needs?**

Spence-Chapin has a program that connects adoptive families with infants with a variety of special needs, from the most serious to very minor challenges. There are families across the United States who are waiting to bring an infant with special needs into their home and family.

## **7) What is open adoption?**

An open adoption is when the birth parents choose their baby's family and the amount of future contact they will have with them. It gives you the opportunity to know your child, even though you have surrendered legal and child rearing rights to the adoptive parents.

## **8) How does open adoption work?**

Birth and adoptive families decide to stay in touch through letters, pictures, phone-calls, e-mails, and periodic visits. Whatever the arrangement, children generally feel better knowing where they come from; and both birth and adoptive families feel more comfortable about the adoption with information about each other and the child.

## 9) **What about the birth father?**

The birth father's involvement in an adoption is encouraged whenever possible. Birth fathers have certain legal rights that vary from case to case. A social worker can help you understand your own situation.

## 10) **What if I am not a legal resident of the United States?**

You have the right to make a legal and safe adoption plan for your infant, regardless of your immigration status.

***Your immigration status is confidential.***

**Call 1.800.321.5683  
to speak confidentially  
about all of your options.  
Spence-Chapin counselors  
are available 24/7 to take  
your call. Our services  
are free and there is  
no pressure.**