



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Your final decision regarding the outcome of your pregnancy lies with you. In order to do so, you must have accurate information. We are committed to giving you the answers you need by providing medically accurate information.

Disclaimer: This fact sheet is designed to be an informational tool only. It is not intended to provide medical advice or replace care from a qualified medical practitioner.

QUESTIONS?

We are here to be a resource of information and offer you the support and resources you need. If you have any specific questions, contact your local adoption agency. As you make the best plan for your child and yourself, they will provide you with advice and support.



1275 Peck St.
Muskegon, MI 49441
231-769-0320

optionswomenscarecenter.org

Adoption



YOUR OPTIONS

THE BEST DECISION IS AN
INFORMED DECISION

HOW CAN I BE SURE MY BABY WILL HAVE A SAFE AND GOOD HOME?

Adoptive parents are extensively evaluated through a lengthy process. High standards that are set by the state and agency must be met before a family is allowed to adopt. Additionally, many agencies make post-adoption visits to check on the well-being of your child.

It's important to remember, you are in control throughout the adoption process. Agencies can provide you with information about prospective adoptive families. When planning your child's adoption, you can choose between an open adoption plan, a closed adoption plan, or somewhere in between.



WHAT IF I WANT TO MEET MY BABY IN THE FUTURE?

Any contact with your child will depend on the type of adoption plan you choose.

An **open adoption** will allow you to know and have contact with your child. Open plans allow for a relationship between the birth mother and the adoptive family, you choose. The degree of openness varies and can range from simply exchanging written information and photos to regularly scheduled visits.

A **closed adoption** plan maintains confidentiality for both the birth mother and the adopting family. Agencies will maintain records so that if a reunion is desired at some point in the future, the agencies will be able to assist in that reunion based on state laws. **Please know, if you work with an agency, they will have a legal obligation to protect the privacy of the adoptive family, just as they will protect your privacy if you select a confidential adoption plan.*

It's important to keep in mind that you can select the type of adoption with which you are most comfortable. Some agencies may offer post-adoption counseling.

DOES THE BABY'S FATHER NEED TO KNOW?

The birth father's rights vary from state to state. An agency can help you determine his rights if you disagree about adoption.



IS ADOPTION EXPENSIVE?

Many agencies provide services to you at no cost. Assistance with medical and living expenses is often available. If costs are involved, they may be covered by the adopting family.