

thinking about
Adoption?



adoption ♥ associates

WWW.ADOPTIONASSOCIATES.NET

TEXT: 248.283.4673 | CALL: 1.616.667.0677

You have choices...



- Would you like to choose an adoptive family?
- Would you like to meet the family?
- Would you like to remain in contact through phone calls, texting, and/or social media?
- How would you like the hospital experience to play out?
- Would you like to spend time with the baby during your hospital stay?
- Would you like pictures and updates of your child over the years?
- Would you like personal visits with the family and your child over the years?
- Would you prefer to have a fully closed adoption?

... **Adoption** places the birth mom in the "driver's seat" as she **makes the best possible plan for her baby.**

why choose *Adoption Associates?*

EXPERIENCE

We have been one of Michigan's leading adoption agencies for over 30 years.

AMAZING FAMILIES

We have many approved loving families to choose from who have been through a stringent screening process.

NO ATTORNEY IS NEEDED

We handle all legal matters.

AVAILABILITY

We are available 24/7.

GENUINELY CARING

You will find that our caseworkers care about you and will advocate for you.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Michigan law allows for medical, living and other pregnancy related expenses to be covered.

CONVENIENCE

We will meet with you wherever and whenever it's convenient.

LICENSED

We work statewide in Michigan.

FREE

All services are free.

What *steps* do I need to take?

1 CONTACT US

Text us at 248.283.4673 or call us at 616.667.0677

2 MEET WITH US

Review this packet and decide if you are ready to meet with one of our pregnancy workers. No pressure. No obligation.



3 MAKE YOUR ADOPTION PLAN

With the help of your pregnancy caseworker:

- discuss your needs and desires for making the best plan for your baby
- decide on how open you would like the adoption to be
- select an adoptive family
- use resources we are able to connect you with, such as speaking with a birth mom who has already been through the process
- prepare for the birth and hospital stay

4 BIRTH OF BABY

With the help of your pregnancy caseworker:

- implement the hospital plan
- place the baby with the adoptive family - the baby usually is discharged directly to the adoptive family from the hospital
- complete the legal process

5 USE POST ADOPTION SERVICES

- get information from your pregnancy caseworker to help prepare you for a medley of feelings following the adoption
- use resources provided to you (bravelove.org, etc.)
- continue to meet with your pregnancy caseworker and/or receive neutral third party counseling
- receive pictures and updates and/or have visits, if desired
- keep your address current with the agency in order to receive updates and/or contact with your child up to 18 years old

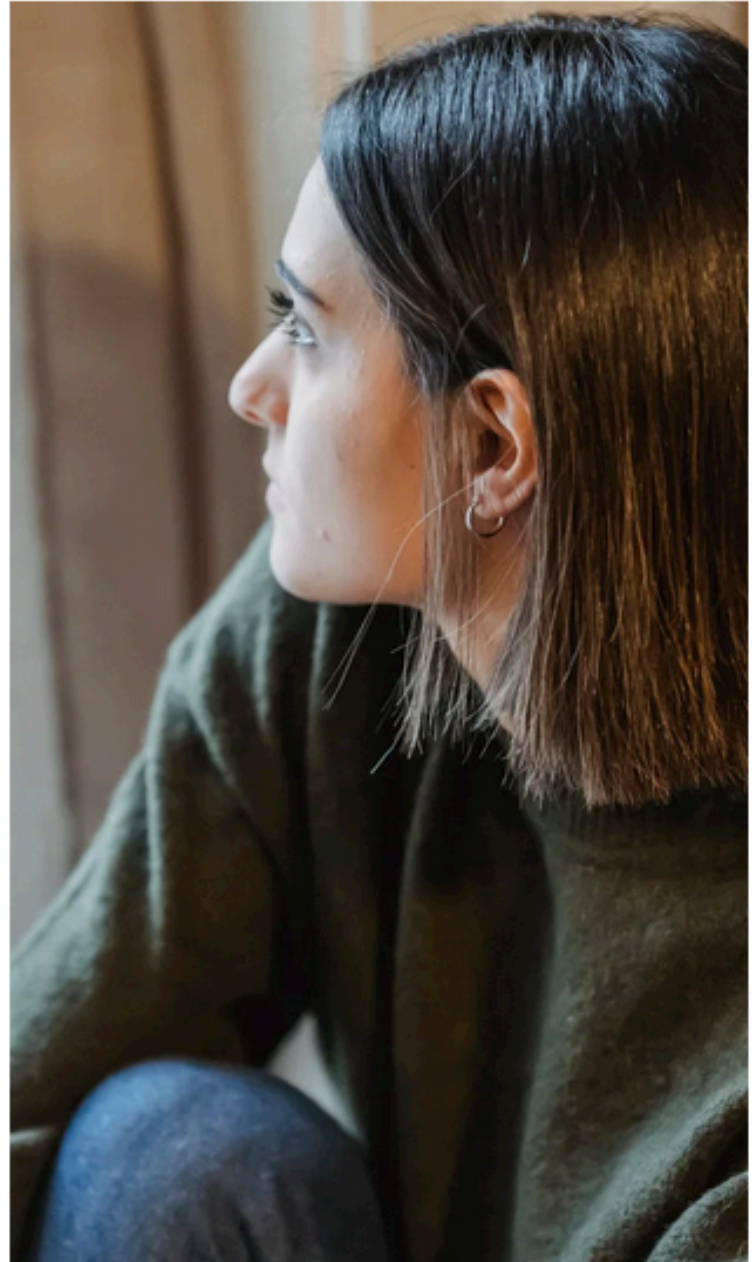
an informed & *loving* decision...

Right now you may be experiencing an intensely stressful situation in your life that forces you to ask a lot of questions.

- *How will a baby change my life?*
- *Am I ready to take on the tasks of being a parent?*
- *Can I provide a happy, healthy, secure lifestyle for my child?*
- *What is best for my baby?*

At Adoption Associates, **we help women plan adoption.** Although it is a difficult decision, birth moms choose adoption because they find it the best way to show love for their baby ... by providing him/her with a family who offers love, stability and security. At the same time, we help birth moms move forward with their lives, knowing they made the best decision possible.

Please review the materials enclosed, understanding that *you are under no obligation.* If you would like to take the next step, *we'd like to meet with you and help you begin the adoption planning process.*



Openness



ONCE YOU DECIDE THAT ADOPTION IS THE BEST PLAN FOR YOUR CHILD, you will want to learn as much as possible about your options regarding how open or closed you want the adoption to be and what kind of relationship you want with the adoptive family.

There is no single, easily defined idea of an open adoption.
There is no right or wrong idea of what an open adoption looks like.

The most common arrangement is a semi-open adoption.

- *Meeting in person*
- *Continued contact throughout the pregnancy*
- *Both birth and adoptive family caring for baby during the hospital stay*
- *An agreement to exchange pictures/letters/updates*
- *The communication is usually facilitated by the agency.*
- *There are sometimes in-person visits after placement.*

Birth parents may also choose a more open adoption that includes the exchange of identifying information and visits. In a fully open adoption the birth family and adoptive family get to know one another, build a trusting relationship and schedule visits. Families communicate directly and plan in-person visits between the families as the child grows up.

Advantages



ADVANTAGES FOR THE CHILD

- The child will have more access to information about the birth family, including health and background information.
- The adoptive family is better able to answer the child's questions about their adoption and family history.
- The opportunity to have ongoing contact with birth parents provides adopted children with a greater sense of identity and self esteem, as well as an understanding of their adoption story.
- With direct contact, a child does not have to wonder about his/her birth parents but knows true and accurate information about them.



ADVANTAGES FOR THE BIRTH PARENTS

- By choosing and meeting the adoptive parents, there is a greater sense of security for the birth parents in making their adoption plan.
- Receiving pictures and letters provides reassurance to the birth parents that the child is being well cared for by the adoptive family.
- By seeing the child grow and develop, as well as the opportunities the adoptive family is able to provide, birth parents can be proud of their adoption plan, knowing that prioritizing the needs of their child, is an act of love.



ADVANTAGES FOR THE ADOPTIVE FAMILY

- Meeting birth parents helps the adoptive family learn about them and their adoption decision and provides the family with information to share with the child about their adoption story.
- Greater understanding and knowledge of health and background information can be obtained.
- Building a relationship based on a mutual desire for the best interest of the child helps everyone feel more secure in the plan for adoption.

Honest questions to ask before making such a life changing decision...

1. What are my top priorities when thinking about planning for the best possible life for my child?

2. Who are my support people, the people I count on? How have they supported me in the past during difficult times? Will they support me and can I count on them regardless of the decision I make?

3. Am I making enough money to cover the cost of daycare/formula/diapers, etc...am I financially able to take care of myself and a baby?

4. Am I able to pursue my goals (such as career goals) and parent in the way I should at the same time?

5. What kind of long term future am I able to offer my child?

6. Will I be able to be involved in my child's activities (little league, ballet, soccer practice, school field trips, etc..) if I parent?

7. Can I provide positive influences, such as a positive male role model, to my child?

8. Am I expecting my child to make my life happy & complete...and potentially bring his/her father back into the picture?

9. What are the things I would need to give up because I am caring for and parenting a child?

10. Even if I can "make it work" by parenting, is this the best possible option for my child?

FOR BIRTH FATHERS

Just found out you are going to be a father and weren't planning on it?

Do you know what adoption is?

We understand you might be overwhelmed ... we encourage you to become fully informed about what the options are by reading through our materials and speaking with one of our caseworkers. We are experienced and here to help you learn about adoption as you decide what is best for your baby.



For starters, here are some important points to consider:

- You may very well have the opportunity to be directly involved with the adoption plan, including selecting an adoptive family.
- Many adoptions include meeting the adoptive parents and building a relationship, if desired.
- Birth parents typically choose adoption because they want to provide the very best opportunities for their child.
- Supporting an adoption plan and making sure your child is well cared for relieves you from future legal and financial responsibilities.
- We strongly encourage sharing social and medical background information as this is extremely important for the child.
- **Adoption Provides** emotional and financial stability and security. Your child will be raised by parents longing to build a family.

STORIES

birth mom stories

Aubrey

My name is Aubrey. I was 19 when I found out I was pregnant with my little boy. I was terrified. I had no support from my family or my son's father. I knew as soon as I found out that I was pregnant I was not ready to take care of my child as a single mother. I wanted to be able to do so bad, but my son would have a very hard life, one that he didn't deserve and I wanted him to have so much better, so I chose adoption. It was the best decision I could have made. I still get to have a very close relationship with my son and be part of his life and watch him grow up, and I also gained a second family. I am super close and open with the adoptive parents and their other children. Adoption is very painful, but it is also very beautiful and the hard choice that I made was worth it. My son now has an amazing life filled with so much love and opportunity because of me and the amazing people I chose to raise him.



Leah

My name is Leah and I made the decision to plan adoption for my daughter when I was 23 years old. I was parenting my two year old son and I knew that it would be possible for me to raise another child ... but I also knew this would not be the best decision for either of them. I chose an open adoption and have a great relationship with my daughter's adoptive parents! We text on a regular basis and also get together for visits a few times each year. It was difficult to choose adoption for my daughter, but it was also the best decision and I don't regret it for one second. She has security, stability and everything I could ever ask for her to have!

Would you like to hear more birth mom stories?

Head to www.adoptionassociates.net/category/stories/birthmother-stories/
or simply scan the QR code below!



ADOPTIVE FAMILY

profiles

Matt & Jennifer

Hi, we're Matt & Jennifer! Welcome, and thank you for reading our profile. We hope that together we can finally answer a question we probably have in common, "Is this the one we've been searching for?" ... We became parents for the first time in July 2017, when we adopted our daughter, Cassidy. She has brought so much joy and happiness into our lives. We are so excited to expand our family through adoption once again and share our hearts with another child ...



Evan & Katelyn



In early 2018 we were approved for our first adoption and we welcomed our perfect daughter Eloise into our lives in November. We were so excited to be matched with her birth mother about six weeks before her due date. During that time, we were able to get to know her birth mother and her other children better. Eloise has been the answer to our prayers and has brought pure joy and love into our lives and the lives of all she meets. We are so excited when we think about growing our family. It would be amazing to hear the laughter of children playing together in our home. We would love to add to our family once more through the miracle of adoption ...

Want to see our current waiting adoptive family profiles?
Head to www.adoptionassociates.net and click on "Find
a Family" or simply scan the QR code below!



Frequently Asked Questions

FROM BIRTH MOTHERS

Why do I need to work with an agency?

Because you will get the support you deserve. We want to advocate for you and assist you with your needs during pregnancy and afterwards. We are here to help you make the best possible adoption plan for your baby and you.

What are the birth father's rights?

He will need to be notified of the pregnancy and has the right to a hearing. We will handle all communication with him if you prefer not to be involved.

How can I be sure they are a good family?

Adoptive families approved by Adoption Associates must meet the standards of being a stable family, having excellent personal references, employment verification, health and medical reports. They are also fingerprinted and processed through both federal and state background checks. If your adoption includes the exchange of photos and letters, you will see for yourself how well cared for and loved your child is!

Will I be able to see my baby in the hospital?

Yes. Your caseworker will work with you to make a well thought-out hospital plan. You will have the opportunity to decide ahead of time if you would like to have contact with the baby during your hospital stay and, if so, how much.

What kind of contact may I have with my baby after the adoption?

You may choose an adoption plan that allows for ongoing updates through letters, photos and possibly visits. Adoptive families respect your desire to know that your child is well cared for.

Is adoption permanent?

Yes. After you complete the legal process which takes place within weeks after delivery, the child legally becomes a permanent member of the adoptive family.



What information will my child know about me?

We encourage you to provide medical information and social history that will be passed on to your child. You may send photos and letters to the family through the agency or as arranged. You may want to write a letter to your child sharing special information about yourself or send a gift that will tell your child in the future that your decision for adoption was based on love and wanting the best for his/her future.

What kind of information will my child receive about his or her birth father?

This will depend on his cooperation/involvement with you and Adoption Associates. Some birth fathers will give their full medical and social history, recognizing how important it is for the child. At other times, only the information you provide will be passed on.

What if I am unable to locate the birth father?

You will need to provide us with any information that you have regarding the birth father and we will attempt to locate him.

Can my child find me in the future?

According to Michigan law, your child may obtain identifying information about you when he/she turns 18, unless you file a form denying access. If you desire to allow for your child to find you, it is important to keep your address current with the State.

Can the agency help with medical expenses?

Many young women are eligible for Medicaid and we will help you apply if you don't already have coverage. If you are not eligible for Medicaid, your pregnancy related medical expenses will be covered.

Do I need an attorney or do I have to pay any fees for the adoption?

No. Our services are free and we handle all legal details.

How soon after birth will my baby go home to the adoptive parents?

This will depend on legal aspects of the adoption and the cooperation of the birth father. In most cases, the baby is discharged from the hospital directly to the adoptive parents. The agency is also able to provide temporary host care if needed.

Is adoption a selfish decision? Shouldn't I take responsibility?

Planning an adoption IS one way of taking responsibility by making the best plan possible for your child. Adoption is a loving, sacrificial decision focusing entirely on the best interest of the child. It is selfless, not selfish.





adoption
associates

**WESTERN MICHIGAN
AGENCY HEADQUARTERS**

1338 BALDWIN
JENISON, MI 49428

TEXT

248.283.4673

VOICE

616.667.0677

EMAIL

INFO@ADOPTIONASSOCIATES.NET

EASTERN MICHIGAN

26105 ORCHARD LAKE ROAD
SUITE 301
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48334

TEXT

248.283.4673

VOICE

248.474.0990

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

P.O. BOX 70160
LANSING, MI 48908-0160

TEXT

248.283.4673

VOICE

517.327.1388



learn more at adoptionassociates.net