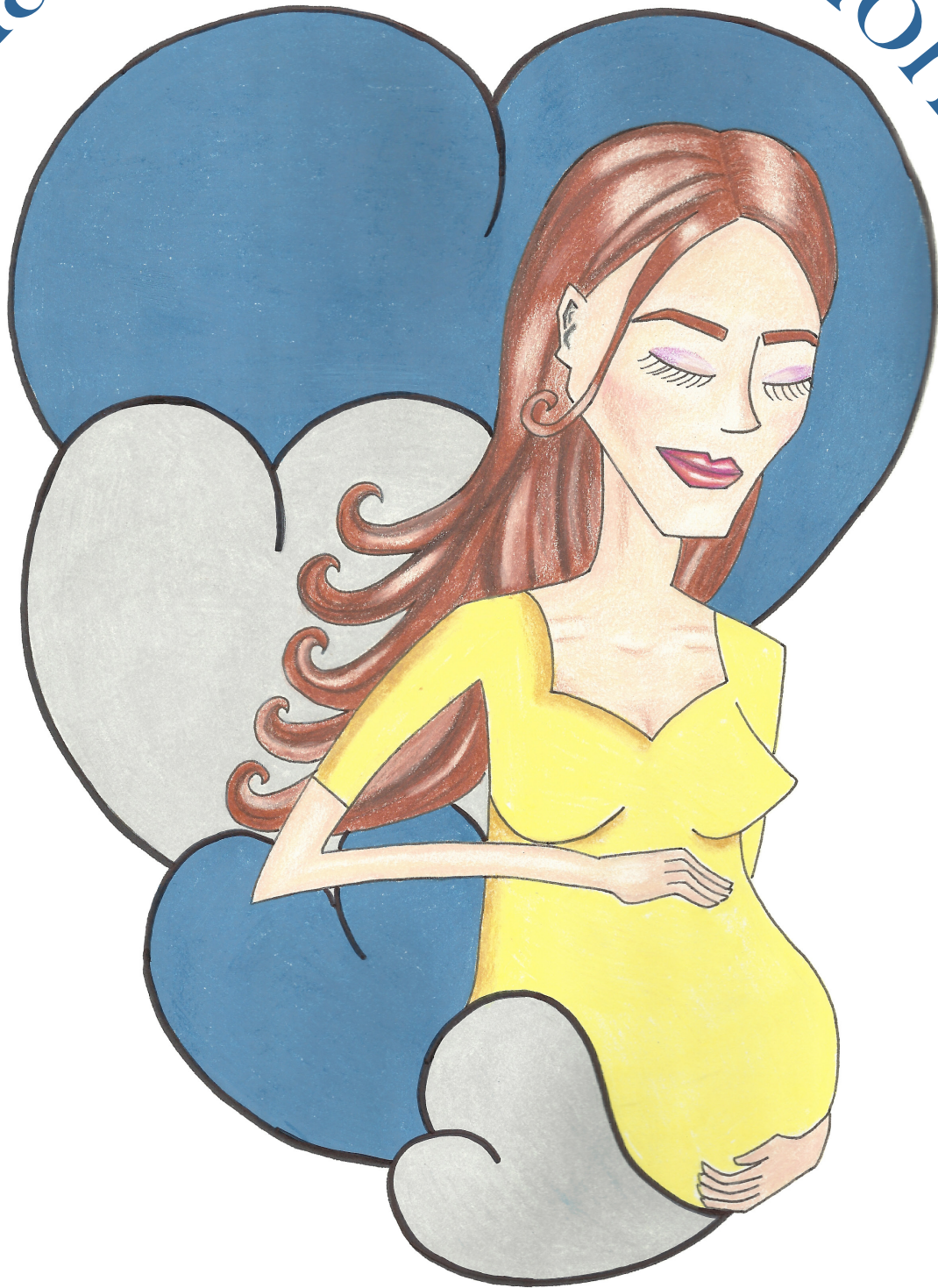


What About Adoption?



A Guardian Angel Adoptions Production

What About Adoption?



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What About Adoption?



Chances are if you are reading this book you are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. You are in a difficult place with difficult decisions ahead and we are here to help. We hope the information in this booklet will be helpful as you make the decisions that are coming up for you.



So... you just found out you're pregnant, or you have known for a while and don't know what to do. You may be feeling shock, confusion and fear. Sadness and desperation. These are all normal emotions. We feel like having a plan can be part of helping you cope with some of these emotions

Friends and family members may have advice for you. Some may suggest parenting. Others may suggest that you have an abortion.



Things to consider about parenting:

- Do you feel ready to be a mom?
- Do you have hopes and dreams about career and education that would have to be put on hold?
- Do you feel like you have the support and help you need to parent?
- Is the birth father willing to be in a stable committed relationship with you and commit to providing for you and your baby?
- Are you financially stable enough to provide for a baby for the next 18 years?

Things to consider about abortion:

We know that abortion has harmful effects for the mother as well as taking the life of the unborn baby.

These are some of the side effects of abortion:

- 49% begin drug or alcohol use
- 61% experience flashbacks
- 54% have anniversary reactions
- 33% feel suicidal
- 78% have feelings of diminished control
- 52% experience difficulty developing and maintaining relationships

There can also be harmful effects to your body from abortion

There is another option. What about adoption?



What is Adoption?



Adoption is when a mother lovingly chooses a family to raise her child for her when she cannot.

The adoptive family then takes the child into their family and raises them as their own. This is adoption.

Adoption is a safe and loving alternative for you and your baby and a great choice for an unplanned pregnancy. Adoption can allow all your dreams for your baby to come true.



If you had a magic wand and could make all your wishes for your child come true what would that life look like? What are your dreams for your child?

Do they include:

- A loving and stable home
- A mother and father
- Financial stability
- Music lessons
- Playing sports
- A quality education



You can choose a family that can make your dreams for your child come true. We have many carefully screened waiting families for you to see and interview. All are hoping, praying and waiting to add a child to their home and be their forever family.

Here are some other reasons that adoption may be the right choice for you:

- Hiding your pregnancy? Adoption is a confidential alternative. Your information is kept completely confidential. You never need to worry about “word, getting out” about your situation.
- Worried about not seeing your child again? You will have the option if you choose to watch your child grow up. We offer open and closed adoptions.
- Do you have an open case with CPS? We can help. We have experience working with CPS and if you have an adoption plan in place you can choose a family for your child and prevent your baby from going into foster care.
- Do you have an issue with drugs or alcohol? We can help with that too. We have a nonjudgmental staff that can help and families that are completely open to welcoming a child with drug exposure into their home with open arms.
- Legal issues? On parole or serving a sentence of some kind? We are qualified to help you with this as well. We have worked with the legal system many times to help women make adoption plans.
- Worried about privacy or in an abusive relationship? We can offer you safe and comfortable housing. We have apartments and condominiums that are safe and clean, in areas near shopping centers and activities.



- Homeless? We can assist you with pregnancy related expenses. When you come to us we will cover all the expenses of travel, living and medical care. We can also help you with expenses for 6 weeks after you go home.
- Need a friend to help you through this difficult time? We have a caring and dedicated staff. Your case manager will always be there for you and will become like family.

You have been learning about adoption. The benefits for you and your baby. **What about adoption? Is adoption right for you?**

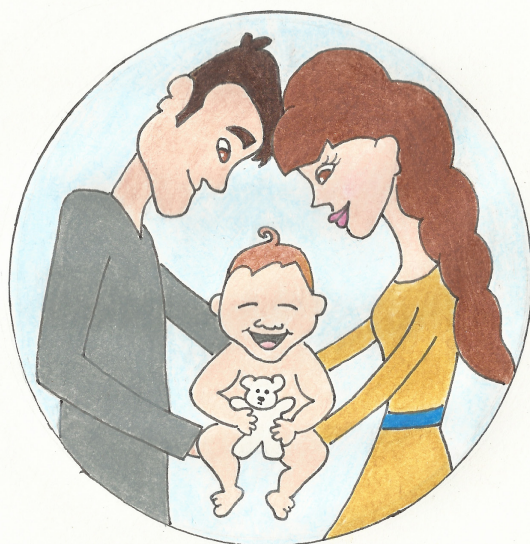
Call our toll free help line 24/7 and let us tell you about A Guardian Angel Adoptions and how we can help you today.

More information for you:



How do I get started?

- Contact our toll free birth parent line (877) 74-ANGEL 24 hours a day 7 days a week or email us at agaa.services@hotmail.com.
- Look for your information packet in the mail or your email inbox.
- Complete and return all forms in the envelope provided along with a proof of pregnancy from your doctor or local clinic.
- Expect a call from a caring member of our staff.
- Discuss your adoption plan.
- Travel and living arrangements will be made, or we can make an adoption plan right in your home town.
- A case manager will meet you at the airport if you choose to travel to Utah.
- You have the opportunity to choose your adoptive family.
- Begin making a delivery and placement plan with your counselor.
- Your birth parent coordinator will be with you through the labor and delivery of your baby so you will not be alone.
- No sooner than 24 hours after the baby is born, you will sign documents consenting to the adoption.
- During your adoption process, you will have support, love and understanding.
- You will rest and recover at your apartment for up to 10 days after delivery.
- Travel plans will be made for you to return home.
- You will receive medical confinement expenses to assist you financially while you are medically restricted due to your delivery and placement.
- You will begin receiving updates with pictures and letters of your babies progress as soon as you are ready.



Frequently Asked Questions



Will my baby hate me?

No, your baby will not hate you. Placing a child for adoption is a loving decision, especially if you are not in a place in life to give that child the kind of life you would have wanted to. Your baby will be placed with a carefully screened adoptive family so that you can rest assured that your baby will be safe and loved from the very beginning.

How much will my child know about me?

You and your chosen adoptive family will be able to discuss how little or how much you would like them to share with your child.

Does this cost me anything?

There are no financial costs to you as the birth parent; our services are absolutely free for women who are pregnant and are choosing an adoption plan for their baby. Every state has different adoption laws on Birth Parent expenses, but we will help you know what is allowable in the state you will be delivering in. The adoptive family takes care of all medical fees, and you are eligible to receive free, confidential, adoption-related counseling services.

Will anyone find out?

As a birth parent, your privacy is one of our top concerns. As trained professionals with years of experience and countless successful placements, we ensure total confidentiality as you go through the process of adoption. The choice about who you tell, when you tell them, and if you tell anyone, is ultimately up to you.

What if I go into labor and have not chosen a family?

Our waiting adoptive families are prequalified and have often been waiting for years to find a baby to make their family complete. A last minute call that a baby is on the way would be a welcome blessing for any of them. It is never too late to make an adoption plan.

What hours are you available?

We have a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, toll-free phone line available to our birth parents at **877-74-ANGEL (877-742-6435)**.

Who pays the medical bills?

The adoptive family will pay the medical bills that you might incur during your pregnancy and delivery.



What if the father doesn't agree?

Laws vary in different states, but our adoption counselors are experienced and knowledgeable and can help you make a plan that best fits your situation. There are many factors that determine a birth father's rights; for example, if he has not contributed to your welfare during your pregnancy or if your pregnancy is a result of a violent act, he may be disqualified from parental rights. Often birth fathers don't understand the adoption process, and when they receive reassurance from an adoption professional they are more likely to agree to the adoption.

Who chooses adoption?

Many women choose adoption. There are various different reasons, but the common thread is the desire to give your baby the kind of life that you could not provide for him or her at the present time.

Can the child find me if they do a search one day?

If you would like to remain anonymous, then we will do everything possible to ensure your privacy as a birth parent. In many states, there are mutual consent registries that allow birth parents and the adopted child to find each other if they both choose to once the child is of legal age. For more information on these registries you may speak to your adoption counselor about this question and they can help walk you through your options.

Can I get medical and living expense help during the process?

Your adoptive family will be paying the medical expenses that you might incur during your pregnancy and delivery. We also provide fully furnished birth parent housing, complete with all the necessities that you might need during your adoption journey.

How much time can I share with my baby at the hospital?

If you so choose, you can have contact with your baby during your entire hospital stay even though 24 hours after your baby's birth, you will be asked to sign consent papers that will allow your baby to be placed in the custody of the family.

Can I choose a family for my baby?

Absolutely!! You will be able to choose from our pre-qualified and screened families. And we will be there to assist you in making the final decision as to which family you would like to place your baby with.

Where do I start?

You can begin your adoption journey by filling out our birth parent application that is available online or by contacting one of our adoption counselors on our toll-free, 24-hour line. (877) 74-ANGEL



What if I don't know who the father is or if there is more than one option for who the father could be?

We can help you work through all the legalities of your situation to make you an adoption plan that will work for you and your baby.

What if I choose a family and then change my mind?

It is important that you feel completely comfortable with the family who will raise your baby; if you have reservations about the family you choose, we will work with you to find the perfect family for your baby.

How do I tell my friends and family about my situation?

The choice to share your adoption journey with others is no easy decision, but with the help of our counseling program, you will hopefully feel more confident in sharing your choice with those you love. You will want to have people around you who love and support you, and we advocate undertaking this journey with those who you know will be a positive voice throughout your experience.

How do I respond if people tell me I am being “selfish?”

Placing your child with a wonderful and loving adoptive family is one of the most selfless gifts you can give. People may say things that are hurtful, but the important thing is for you to do what you think is best for you and your baby – no matter what others say.

How will my other children react to the adoption? How do I tell them about it?

It is your personal decision regarding how much detail you plan to share with your children about your adoption journey. If your children are young, they may not be able to fully understand what it is that you are planning to do. If your children are older, this is a wonderful time to use this experience as a teaching tool. You are sharing with another family one of the most valuable gifts of all time – a new life.

Will I always wonder how my child is doing?

It is normal to wonder how your child might be doing, but if you have chosen an open adoption, you will receive letters, photos, and cards. This will help set your mind at ease, knowing how happy and well adjusted your baby is with his or her new family.

Will I regret my decision?

We offer a selection of the best families because we want you to know that your baby is going into a home full of love that is prepared for your precious little bundle. Our hope is that this knowledge will help you be confident about the decision that you have made and will allow you to not look back, but instead look forward at the great life this child will have.



Will I meet and/or talk to the adoptive family before the birth?

Yes, you will have the opportunity to speak with your chosen adoptive family on a conference call shortly after you have chosen them. This is a very exciting time for many birth mothers as they get to finally hear the voices of the family's life they are about to change.

How involved can I be in the entire adoption process?

We encourage you to be as involved as you would like to be. You are a most important part of the adoption, and we want you to have a wonderful experience. We will work carefully with you on an adoption plan with a level of participation that is perfect for you.

How can I be sure these families are the best choices for my baby?

Our adoptive birth families are carefully screened and selected. They have to meet the strictest criteria. physically, mentally, and emotionally. Among other things, our adoptive families are required to pass criminal and child abuse clearances, prove financial security, and must complete a personal interview by a licensed social worker. We are proud to place babies with only the highest quality of families.

How much information about the adoptive family is shared with me?

You will be able to read a detailed adoptive family profile about the adoptive family prior to placement.

How much contact can I have with the family and child after the adoption?

You will fill out an openness agreement that is personally designed by you. This agreement allows you to share with us your desires about future contact with your child.

Once I sign the adoption papers, can I change my mind?

Laws vary by state, but in the State of Utah relinquishments can be submitted no sooner than 24 hours after birth, and once signed, they are irrevocable.

How will the adoptive family tell the child about me and the adoption?

In today's world, adoption is not usually a secretive subject and is typically celebrated in most by adoptive families and children alike. Birth mothers are loved honored and appreciated by the adoptive families for the selfless gift they have given.



What can I expect to feel after I say goodbye?

Placing your child with an adoptive family can leave you with a variety of mixed emotions. You may feel sad that your baby will be leaving you, but delighted that he or she will be welcomed into a wonderful new family where they will be cared for and have the opportunities and love you wish for them.

Is there someone I can talk with after the adoption about my feelings and answer my questions?

Yes, there is counseling available to you as the birth parent during the entire adoption process. We understand how difficult it is to allow your baby to be placed with an adoptive family, and that there may be emotions cropping up that you never even planned on experiencing. We hope that our highly qualified counselors will be able to help ease your unsettled feelings as you move forward after your baby is placed with a family. A Guardian Angel Adoptions provides you with a birth mother to work with during the post-placement time; she truly understands how you feel. She will give you a book full of excellent help and suggestions on working through your grief. You can also call and speak to her after you go home. The important thing to remember is that you are not alone.





Learning of an unplanned pregnancy can leave you feeling lost, alone, and scared. We know you have many decisions to make, and we are here for you. We want you to know that you are never alone. Our commitment to you is to help you through this difficult time and to show you the options that are yours. We have a deep love and respect for birth mothers and consider it a privilege to walk this path with you.

At A Guardian Angel, we have many services that can give you the support you need. We have birth parent programs uniquely suited to all kinds of situations. We also have an amazing staff – many are adoptive mothers and birth mothers. Because of this, they feel a unique bond with you and a desire to help you have a positive outcome with your unplanned pregnancy. Our “angels” want you to have the best care available and a plan that fits your needs. At A Guardian Angel we have a special love for newborn adoption and promise to be here for you from the first time you call throughout your adoption journey and beyond. Once you have worked with A Guardian Angel Adoptions you are considered part of our big adoption family!!!



You are never alone.

