



What About Adoption?

You found out you're pregnant, and you weren't planning this. Or maybe you have known for a while and the shock is setting in. Maybe you don't know what to do. You may be feeling shock, confusion, and fear. Sadness and desperation.

These emotions are all normal emotions when you are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. If you are

unable or not ready to parent, you are in a difficult place with difficult decisions ahead of you. We are here to help. We feel like having a plan can ease your burden and be part of helping you cope with some of these emotions. Understanding your options is key to making a plan. We hope the information in this booklet will be helpful as you make the decisions that are coming up for you.



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?
- Are you pausing your hopes and dreams of an education and career?
- Do you have a safe place to live and raise a child?
- Do you feel like you have the support and help (financial and emotional) you need to parent?
- Is the birth father willing to be in a stable, committed relationship with you and provide for you and your baby?
- Are you ready to make the long-term commitment that parenting takes?

THINGS TO CONSIDER ABOUT ABORTION:

Abortion has harmful effects on 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 on your body from abortion.

If abortion doesn't feel like the right fit for you 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. As adopted children grow, they know about and love their birth mother. Many children and their birth mothers often stay in contact and even meet up to share together in their child's growing up.

This is adoption.

Although not easy, adoption is a safe and loving alternative for you and your baby. It is 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's life come true what would that look like? What are your hopes and dreams for your child? Do they include:

- A loving and stable home
- A mother and father
- Financial stability
- Music lessons
- Playing sports
- Siblings
- Close, extended family
- Vacations
- An education

At A Guardian Angel Adoptions, we have many families to choose from and all kinds of families that offer different lifestyles for your child. Our families go through screening and background checks by licensed social workers. They are hoping for, praying for, and waiting to add a child to their home and be part of their forever family.

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

Hiding a pregnancy?

Adoption is a confidential alternative. Your information is completely confidential. You can travel to our safe and comfortable housing to stay until after your delivery. You never need to worry about word getting out about your situation.

Do you have an open case with CPS/DCFS?

We can help. We have experience working with CPS/DCFS. 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. Whereas, after permanent placement you do not get updates or have contact with them or the adoptive family.

Do you have an issue with drugs or alcohol?

We can help with that too. We have a non-judgmental



staff who can help and non-judgmental families who are completely open to welcoming a child with drug exposure into their home with open arms. We train all families on how to love and support children who may have been exposed to substances during pregnancy so you can rest at ease your baby will have the best medical and emotional care and support.

Legal issues? On parole or serving a sentence?

We are qualified to help you. We have worked with the legal system many times to help women make adoption plans for their babies. We work with jails and prisons and can help you make an adoption plan right from there. You can still have an open adoption and receive letters and pictures of your child throughout your stay and beyond.

Worried about privacy or in an abusive relationship?

We can offer you safe and comfortable housing. We have safe and clean apartments and townhomes near shopping centers and activities. No one needs to know where you are or what you are doing.

Homeless?

We can assist you with pregnancy-related expenses. If you choose to stay in your hometown, we can help you with living expenses including housing, medical, food, and hygiene supplies. If you choose our housing, we will cover all of these expenses as well as travel. Most of the

time we can also help you with expenses for six to eight weeks after your delivery and placement.

Feeling alone and needing a friend to help you through this difficult time?

We have a caring and dedicated staff. Many of our staff are adoptive or birth mothers and have an incredible love for you. Your Adoption Coordinator will always be there for you and will be like family.

Our Adoption Counselors have helped hundreds of expectant mothers make a personalized adoption plan. With A Guardian Angel Adoptions, you are never

alone in your adoption journey. We promise to walk with you from the beginning to placement and beyond. You will always be part of our big amazing Guardian Angel family.

Worried about not seeing your child again?

You have the choice. Adoption is different from foster care in that you will have the option if you choose to watch your child grow up. Many families and birth mothers stay in close contact. We offer open and closed adoptions and anything in between. We can help you create a personalized adoption plan just for you and your baby.



AFTER PLACEMENT

After the delivery and placement of your baby, we are still there for you. We offer post-placement counseling, a private Facebook group for only our birth mothers, and resources for healing. We also have an amazing Post-placement Department that can help you share information with your adoptive family if you choose.

You have been learning about adoption and the benefits for you and your baby. Maybe adoption is the right plan for your unplanned pregnancy.



IS ADOPTION RIGHT FOR YOU?

Call our toll-free helpline 24/7 at **877-742-6435** and let us tell you about A Guardian Angel Adoptions and how we can help you today.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Contact our toll-free birth parent line at **877-74ANGEL** 24 hours a day seven days a week, text us at **203-360-0020**, or email us at yvonne@aguardianangel.com.

Log onto our website (www.aguardianangel.com) and chat with us to get more information. Either fill out your information online or request a mailed packet in a confidential envelope.

NEXT STEPS

Receive contact from your adoption worker to discuss your adoption plan. We will make travel and living arrangements or we will make an adoption plan right in your hometown.

If you travel to Utah, your personal Case Manager will meet you at the airport, get you set up in your apartment, and get the things you need for your stay.

Meet with your adoption counselor to begin your adoption plan and see our adoptive-friendly doctor to establish your due date.

As soon as we have your adoption plan in place, you may begin screening adoptive families.

Your birth parent coordinator will be with you through labor and delivery, so you will not be alone. You may also have your adoptive family in the delivery room or at the hospital to support you. You will be able to spend as much time with your baby as you would like.

At least 24 hours after the baby is born, you will sign documents consenting to the adoption with your adoption counselor and adoption coordinator by your side.

During your adoption process, you will have support, love, and understanding. You will rest and recover at your apartment after delivery. When you are ready, we will make travel plans for you to return home. You will receive medical confinement expenses to assist you financially for six to eight weeks while you are medically restricted due to your delivery and placement.

You will begin receiving updates with pictures and letters of your baby's 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 want. We will place your baby with a carefully screened adoptive family so you can rest assured your baby will be in a caring home and safe and loved from the very beginning.

How much will my child know about me?

You and your chosen adoptive family will discuss how much you would like them to share with your child. The homes of adopted children love and honor you as a birth mother. We teach and speak kind and tender words about adoption and birth mothers.

Does placing my baby for adoption cost me anything?

There are no financial costs to you as a 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. We will pay for housing, food, clothing, travel, and all medical fees.



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 and forever after. The choice about who you tell, when you tell them, and if you tell anyone is completely up to you.

What if I go into labor or already had my baby and have not chosen a family?

We can still help! Our staff can work quickly to help you get your adoption plan in place and travel to you if you deliver in your hometown. Prequalified adoptive families have often been waiting for years to find a baby to make their family complete. They can be ready to go at a minute's notice and be at your side. 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 toll-free hotline 24 hours a day seven days a week, especially for our birth parents at **877-74ANGEL**.

Who pays the medical bills?

Your adoptive family pays for all the medical bills that you might incur during pregnancy and delivery.

What if the father doesn't agree with my adoption plan?

Laws vary in different states. Our experienced and knowledgeable adoption counselors will help you make a plan that 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.

Sometimes once the birth father understands the adoption process, they are more likely to agree with the adoption.

Who chooses adoption?

Many women choose adoption. There are various different reasons, but a common thread is the desire of a birth mother to give their baby the kind of life they want for them but feel they can't offer at that time.

If I lose contact or I do not want contact at the time of placement can my child find me if they search for me one day?

If you would like to remain anonymous, then we will do everything to ensure your privacy as a birth parent. Many states have mutual consent registries to allow birth parents and their adopted child to find each other if they both choose to once a child is of legal age. For more information on these registries, you may speak to your adoption counselor.

Can I get help with living expenses during the adoption process?

Yes, we can help with living expenses such as housing, groceries, medications, transportation, and clothing. If you choose to come to Utah we provide fully furnished housing, complete with all the necessities that you will need during your stay.

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

If you choose, you can have contact with your baby during the entire hospital stay. After signing the paperwork, you will still have full access to your baby.

Can I choose a family for my baby?

Absolutely! You will be able to choose from our carefully evaluated and screened families. We have families from all over the country that have passed criminal background and child abuse clearances. We also ensure that each family is financially stable with medical and life insurance as well as a safe home and neighborhood. You will have the opportunity to look at profile books, read information about them and receive



an information sheet on each family. If you have any questions about a family that is not covered in that information we can find out the answer. We want you to be 100% comfortable with the family you choose for your baby.

Do I have to choose my adoptive family?

No. If you aren't comfortable with that process and decision, we are happy to assist in choosing a wonderful family for your baby.

Where do I start?

You can begin your adoption journey by filling out your birth parent application which is available online or by contacting one of our adoption professionals on our toll-free 24-hour line **877-742-6435**. You can also text us or chat with us on our site.

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've chosen them. This is a very exciting time for many birth mothers, as they get to finally hear the voices of the family whose lives they are about to change. You will also have the opportunity to meet your adoptive family and get to know them in person before delivery.

How involved am I going to 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 the level of participation that is perfect for you.

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

Our adopted families are carefully screened and selected. They must meet the strictest criteria, physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially. Among other things, it is a requirement for our families to pass, criminal and child abuse clearances, medical checkups, and prove financial security. They must also complete a personal interview by a licensed social worker and have their home inspected for safety. We only place babies with the best of families.

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

You will fill out an openness agreement that you personally design for your adoption. 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, you must sign relinquishments no sooner than 24 hours after birth, and once signed 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 we celebrate it in adoptive homes. We love, honor, and appreciate birth mothers for the selfless



gift they have given. They provide a miracle that the adoptive family cannot receive without them.

What can I expect to feel after I say goodbye?

Placing your child with an adoptive family can leave you feeling a variety of emotions. You may feel sad that you are saying goodbye to your baby for a time, but the new family will welcome and care for your precious baby with the love you wish for them.

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

Yes, there is counseling available to you as a birth parent during the entire adoption process and after as well. There may be emotions you don't expect when you place your baby for adoption. After placing your baby for adoption, our highly qualified adoption counselor will ease your unsettled feelings as you move forward.

A Guardian Angel Adoptions can also provide you with a birth mother to work with after placement. She truly understands how you feel. You will also receive a book full of suggestions on how to work through your grief. You can also call and speak to her after you go home. We have also just launched a private Facebook page just for our birth mothers to offer love and support to one another. 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

A GUARDIAN ANGEL PROMISES TO YOU:

We promise to walk this journey with you and be by your side.
We promise to help you make the adoption plan YOU want.
We promise to keep your information confidential.
We promise to care for you like family.
We promise to help you find the family that will make YOUR dreams for your baby come true.
We promise to always be fair and honest with you.
We promise to make you part of our Guardian Angel family and to be there for you always.

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 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.

We want you to have the best care available and a plan that fits your needs. At A Guardian Angel Adoptions, 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 part of our big A Guardian Angel family.

CALL 877.74ANGEL
TEXT 203.360.0020

Unplanned pregnancy?
We can help.

Contact us 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Email us at yvonne@aguardianangel.com.

