

Adoptions  
with Love



A Guide to Adoption  
After Birth

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## *There is No Deadline*

Have you just given birth, and are now considering adoption for your baby? It is not too late.

# Introduction



## Have you just given birth, and are considering adoption for your baby? It is not too late.

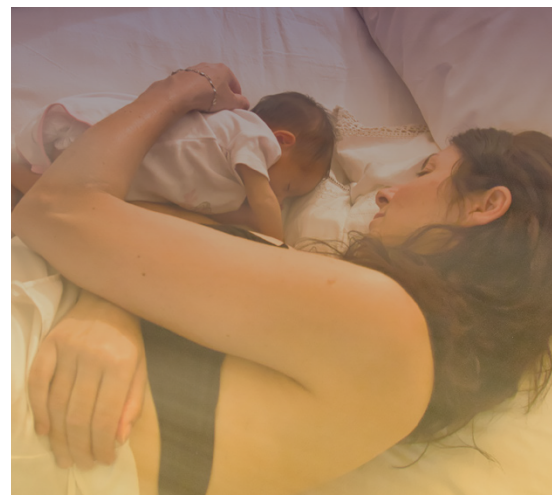
Choosing to place your child for adoption is a selfless, loving act. It takes incredible strength and courage to make a plan for your baby's life, especially when you did not plan for this pregnancy.

Right now, you may be feeling overwhelmed, frightened, and unsure of what to do. You may be at the hospital, recovering from birth, and re-considering all your options. You may have spent some time with your newborn since birth, and realized you are not ready to become a parent or raise another child. This is very common among women who have faced an unplanned pregnancy, and it is okay to feel this way. You are not alone. There are resources available to you.

If you would like to learn about adoption after birth, you are in the right place. Keep reading for more information about adoption, and how to start the process. If you would like to make an adoption plan, you can always contact Adoptions With Love. We are a private adoption agency helping birth mothers across the U.S. find loving homes for their babies to grow. We can meet you at the hospital, wherever you are, and help you:

- Discuss your options after birth
- Make a last-minute adoption plan
- Choose an adoptive family to raise your baby

Despite what many people think, there is no deadline for making an adoption plan. Nothing must be finalized – or even decided – by the time baby is born. In fact, every state today requires that birth mothers wait until **after the baby is born** to make a final decision. This gives women more time with their decision and gives many expectant/birth mothers peace of mind.



### Did You Know?

Every state requires that birth mothers wait until after the baby is born to make a final decision about adoption.



# There is No Deadline



While some women begin to make an adoption plan during their pregnancy, others need more time to think about, learn about, and come to terms with, this decision. Rest assured it is possible to make your adoption plan after giving birth, even right from your hospital room.

If you need more time to learn about adoption, that is okay, too. You may be weighing the pros and cons of adoption versus parenting, wondering which is the right choice for you. This is a deeply personal choice. There is no deadline when it comes to making the decision between adoption and parenting.

Making this decision, however, can come with an immense amount of pressure. This is completely normal. After a pregnancy confirmation at the doctor's office, you are given an expected due date. This date can feel like an eviction notice, especially for women who are already far along. As the days went by, you may have felt no closer to a decision as you were on the first day in that doctor's office. We want you to know: It is okay. Many women need time with their thoughts, and even with their babies, before arriving at a final choice.

It is important that you feel fully comfortable and confident in your decision, whether that be to parent your child or to make an adoption plan. It is for this reason that all states, by law, require birth mothers to wait until after birth before making this important choice. This is often referred to as the waiting period. In Massachusetts, for example, there is a four-day waiting period after the baby's birth, before a birth mother can sign a consent to the adoption. If you need longer, that is okay, too. You can take as much time as you need with this decision.

It is possible to plan from your hospital room right after giving birth. It is also possible to make your adoption plan after bringing baby home. Some birth mothers bring their baby home for several weeks or months, before deciding to lovingly place their child for adoption. Some know after a few days in the hospital, that it is time to reach out to an adoption agency. Your adoption decision should be made by you, on your own terms, and within your comfort zone.



# Making a Last-Minute Adoption Plan

When you decide to place your child for adoption, you will need a licensed adoption agency to start the process. Adoptions With Love is a private, domestic, non-profit, full-service adoption agency. Our services are completely free to expectant/birth mothers. We provide counseling services, legal services, financial assistance – including postnatal care – and connections with adoptive families. These services are all free of charge. No matter when you choose adoption, Adoptions With Love can help you make a plan with which you are most comfortable.

With a last-minute adoption plan from the hospital, you still have all the same rights as every other expectant/birth mother. You can speak with an adoption professional right from the comfort of your hospital room and be walked through the entire adoption process. You can also review adoptive family profiles and choose the right family for your baby. If you would like, you can also speak with the adoptive family on the phone, while they travel to the hospital.

Making an adoption plan from the hospital is much like making an adoption plan prior to your expected due date. The only real difference is the process may be sped up a bit to help you decide on the perfect family for your child. You can be confident in your decision to make an adoption plan with Adoptions With Love. Every prospective adoptive family is pre-screened through a thorough background check and home study process. Every adoptive family that has been approved to adopt has proven to be responsible, reliable, safe, stable, loving, and excited to welcome a child into their home.



## *It is Not Too Late*

No matter where you are in the adoption process, you still have rights and are entitled to our free birth mother services.





# Finding an Adoption Agency After Birth

Once you have made your decision to place your child for adoption after birth, it is time to think about getting the process started. The best place to start is with an adoption professional you can trust. In order to choose the best adoption agency, it is important to look for one that:

- Is licensed, reputable, and works within your state
- Makes you feel comfortable
- Respects your wishes, and does not pressure you into a decision
- Provides counseling and support, even after the adoption is finalized
- Is committed to you every step of the way

An agency like Adoptions With Love can take you through the adoption journey. Our services are completely free of charge to expectant/birth mothers. Some of those services include counseling, legal assistance, and designing an adoption plan – just to name a few.

When you are ready, an adoption counselor can sit with you to discuss your options. You can look through adoptive parent profiles and select the right family for your baby. You can also decide on the **type** of adoption you would like to have. Whether you decide to have an open adoption, a semi-open adoption, or a closed adoption, you are in charge of this adoption plan. Your adoption agency can help you determine the exact kind of adoption plan you would like to have.

At Adoptions With Love, the adoption plan (and level of desired openness) is agreed upon by the adoptive family and the birth mother. The plan may evolve over time to accommodate the growing child's needs. We can help navigate any changes over the years.

Whenever you feel that the time is right, you may reach out to Adoptions With Love for support and guidance through the process. Our experienced staff can hold your hand throughout the adoption journey, with zero judgment, pressure, or bias.



# Finding a Family for Your Baby

As a birth mother, you have the right to choose the adoptive family for your child. You may think that placing a child for adoption after birth changes the process. The truth is, you still can select the family for your baby – even if you are going through this process after you have given birth. In fact, having the baby and *then* deciding on the adoptive family may prove helpful for you. This way, you have already met the baby, and you may feel a better sense of what kind of parents you would like your child to have.

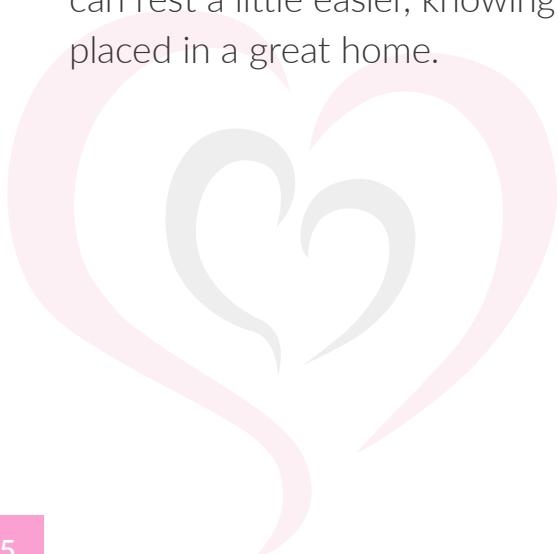
When you are ready to consider your adoption plan, you can decide on the adoptive family from the comfort of your own home or the hospital. You can browse through these families' profiles, which include photos, information about the family, and letters to you. Adoptions With Love, we will give you as much information about a prospective adoptive family as you need. You can also take comfort in knowing that every prospective adoptive family at Adoptions With Love has been through a series of background checks and interviews, to ensure they can offer a safe, stable, and loving home for your child.

If you wish, you may speak with a potential adoptive family before making your decision. You can meet with them in person. If you have already given birth, your adoption agency can arrange a meeting so that the potential adoptive family comes to you. You can speak with them about your child, share your wishes for your child's life, and share your own story. With a positive meeting or discussion with your child's adoptive family, you can rest a little easier, knowing your child will be placed in a great home.



## Who Will Raise Baby?

You can still choose the adoptive family to raise your baby after giving birth. You can also meet the family, if you wish.



# Making an Adoption Plan for Forever



Once you have chosen your child's adoptive family, you can begin to think about the type of adoption you would like. Your adoption agency can help you determine the plan that best suits your needs. Birth mothers can choose between an open adoption, a semi-open adoption, or a closed adoption. What do each of these mean?

Open adoption means that you have ongoing communication with your child's adoptive family. A closed adoption, in contrast, means there is zero communication and allows more privacy. A semi-open adoption falls somewhere in the middle, such as meeting with the adoptive family prior to placement and ongoing updates through the agency.

To decide which plan is best for you, ask yourself: Would you feel more comfortable with the adoption, knowing you can keep in touch with your child's adoptive family over the years? Perhaps an annual email or phone conversation would help you feel more comfortable with the arrangement. In this case, you would want to make an open adoption plan. Most adoptions today are open, but there are some birth mothers who wish to have no contact with the family once the adoption is finalized. Some feel openness will be too difficult. Are you looking for a fresh start? Do you think that even occasional contact with the adoptive family would be too painful? If this describes how you are feeling, you may wish to have a closed adoption.

Your adoption agency can help you and the adoptive family agree upon the right type of adoption plan. As your child grows, his needs may change. That is okay. The adoption plan may evolve over the years. If monthly emails start to feel excessive, you can decide to cut it down to annual updates. If your phone calls are going well and you and your child's adoptive family want to strengthen your bond, you may choose to meet in person occasionally. If you decide, at first, you want a closed adoption, you can open your adoption at a later time. Adoptions With Love keeps photos and updates from adoptive families on-file, for this very reason.



# Legal Considerations



Once you have chosen an adoptive family and settled on an adoption plan that makes you comfortable, you can begin to think about the next steps toward making the adoption final.

Making an adoption plan after birth is not much different from making an adoption plan before birth. When it comes to your rights, you are protected just like every other birth mother going through the adoption process. Your adoption professional can help guide you through the legal proceedings and what you can expect along the way.

Adoption laws vary by state and can change at any time. As mentioned previously, birth mothers may only sign a consent to the adoption (effectively terminating their parental rights) after the baby is born. Every state is different in terms of the number of days, or hours, a birth parent must wait. In some states, there is a revocation period that allows birth mothers to change their minds. It can be hard to keep track of all the laws surrounding adoption. That is why finding a credible adoption agency that works in your state is so important.

At Adoptions With Love, our teams of attorneys are familiar with adoption laws in every state. No matter where you live, your adoption will be handled with care and detail. Our adoption attorney partners can meet you, wherever you are, to discuss your rights and walk you through the legal requirements. Their compassion and years of experience will ensure your adoption goes through smoothly. These legal services – like all the services at Adoptions With Love – are free for birth mothers choosing adoption.



*We are Here for You*

An adoption attorney and counselor can meet you, wherever you are, to help you through the process and make your adoption official.



# Conclusion



Making an adoption plan – whether you start considering adoption during your pregnancy, or after birth – is never easy. Nevertheless, you do have options. You have the power to take this unexpected experience and turn it into a positive choice. You can bring your child into this world with love, security, and provide a life beyond the one you are able to provide at this time.

When deciding whether to make an adoption plan, you can take all the time you need. There is no deadline, no expiration. Just because you have an expected due date, or a set timeline at the hospital, does not mean you need to make your decision at this instant. Adoption is a lifelong choice, so it is important that you are fully comfortable and confident in your decision.

An adoption agency can help you learn about adoption and understand whether it may be right for you. Your adoption counselor can also answer your questions, ease any concerns, and ultimately help you discover what is best for you, the birth mom, and your baby.

Adoptions With Love is a supportive adoption agency that can help you every step of the way. With more than 34 years of experience, our caring counselors can walk you through the adoption journey and help you feel at peace with your decision. We will never pressure, judge, or criticize you for any choice that you make.

Making an adoption after birth gives you all the same legal rights you would have if you made a plan prior to your baby's birth. Birth mothers can expect to receive the same respect, dignity, and support as any other expectant/birth mother. Our legal team can walk you through the steps of making your adoption final, while upholding your rights as a birth mother. When you choose adoption after birth, you are making a selfless, loving, and responsible choice. We are here to guide you through this emotional time.

Whenever you are ready, reach out to Adoptions With Love. We are here to chat with you any time of day, any day of the week. Call us at 1-800-722-7731, text us confidentially at 1-617-777-0072, or [contact us online](#).