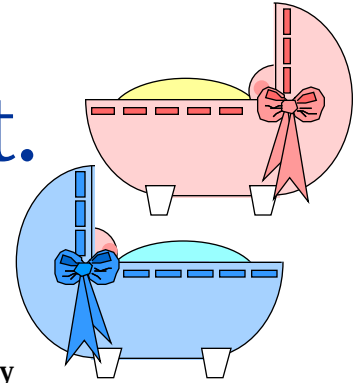


Hard love means thinking of the baby first.



What is adoption? Adoption is the legal placement of a child with people who will raise the child as their own.

Is adoption a permanent option? Yes. The child becomes permanently and legally part of the adoptive family with rights to a lifetime family relationship.

Is adoption the easy way out? Far from it. Adoption is a difficult decision. It may be easier to say, "It's my baby and I will raise it." But you must consider how you will keep and care for the child. You must think of your future and about those who are close to you. But most of all, you must think about the child and choose the best option for its healthy future.

Do children belong with their birth parents? Sometimes a birth parent is just not ready or able to parent a child. Children need to be cared for day in and day out, year after year. They need a stable family. Adoptive parents may be better able to provide a home where the child will flourish.

Are birth parents likely to feel sad after adoption. Of course. You may think about the child you placed for a long time. But the positive start you gave that child can be a significant source of strength to you.

Is adoption a selfish act? No. Putting a child's welfare above your own feelings is an act of love. It is hard love—hard to decide, hard to do. It shows your selfless, honest love for the child.

Will people think badly about me for choosing adoption? Some may. Many different attitudes exist about adoption. It takes strength and courage to do what you believe is right. Selecting adoption may be your most loving option. It's a decision that must be your own.

Can I get financial help with the cost of childbirth? In cases of need, financial assistance is available for health care. Other costs related to adoption may be discussed with your adoption agency's social worker.

Will my baby be well taken care of? Many people, unable to have children of their own, want to become parents. They're prepared to love and care for a child. They've been studied and approved and wait to be chosen. You have the option of choosing the adoptive parents for your child.

How do I get started? Begin by asking yourself these questions: Am I able to give a child all it needs? Am I ready to become a good parent on my own? Will I have to count on others to take over for me? Can I raise a child and meet my own dreams: finish school...go to college ... start a career... travel...?

If you have questions, we offer **FREE** counseling to help you. Call us, we'll come to you.



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