

Am I really ready to be a parent?

Today, tomorrow...for the rest of my life?

What is Adoption?

- Adoption is a loving, thoughtful choice made for the future of a child.
- Adoption is a way to provide a child you love with a secure, stable, loving home.
- Adoption is putting the interests of your child before your own feelings.
- Adoption is a decision that respects both your lives and your futures.

How do I know where my child will go?

- You will choose the parents you want to raise your child.
- You will look through albums of **pre-approved** parents waiting to love and nurture a baby. You will also have the opportunity to meet and speak with the couples if you wish to.
- You and the prospective adoptive parents will together agree on how open you want the adoption to be: letters, photographs, telephone calls, and/or visits.

What happens when I go to the hospital?

- If you would like them there, the adoptive parents can be present during delivery.
- You will have time after your baby is born to rethink your decision. Your HFS counselor will be there to help you explore your feelings and reexamine your decision.
- You may choose to have the baby go home from the hospital with his/her new family.
- Hospital costs are covered if you have planned for adoption and do not have insurance or Medi-Cal assistance.
- When the baby is born and you feel you need additional time to decide, HFS will provide temporary, no-cost care by one of our loving foster families until you come to your decision.

How do I know if adoption is the right choice?

- You can meet with an HFS social worker at no charge. Through counseling you will have the professional assistance to help you decide what is best for you and what is best for your baby.
- A social worker will meet you at our offices or anywhere you feel comfortable.
- If you would like, the father of the baby and other family members may meet with you and your social worker.
- If you choose adoption, counseling is available to you whenever its needed, for a lifetime.

REMEMBER: THIS MUST BE YOUR CHOICE. Your decision will last a lifetime. At some point, you will know in your heart what is best for you and your baby. Give yourself the time you need to make the right choice.

If you are in need of help and support, call us. ***There is no cost for our services to you.***

