

YOU HAVE OPTIONS

One of the options or choices that is available to you and the baby's father is to place your child for adoption.

AGENCIES CAN HELP

Adoptive parents have received specialized counseling and training to prepare them to be adoptive parents.

IF ADOPTION IS YOUR CHOICE

If you decide on adoption, you may want to think about the type of family in which your child will be placed and raised.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about adoption, the agencies listed on the insert in this brochure are available to give you more information.

In accordance with Title VI, of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 and Section 1808 of the Small Business Job Projection Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C 622(b)(9), 671(a)(18), 674(d) and 1996b, the South Carolina Department of Social Services is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color and/or national origin when making foster care or adoption placement decisions. This brochure was developed in accordance with the requirements of South Carolina Code of Laws, 20-7-2323.

DSS Brochure 2412 (SEP 07) Edition of MAY 04 is obsolete.

THE ADOPTION OPTION

Adoption Services
for Birth Parents

REMEMBER,
the final decision about adoption
is yours to make,
and the information you share
is confidential.

A TIME OF CHANGE

Pregnancy is a time of many changes for you.

Your body is going through physical changes. You may also be experiencing many different feelings, emotional changes, and changes in your relationship with your family and friends.

While you are experiencing these changes in your life, you are also thinking about your future and your plans for your pregnancy.

YOU HAVE OPTIONS

One of the options or choices that is available to you and the baby's father is to place your child for adoption.

Adoption is the legal process by which permanent custody of a child is transferred from birth parents to adoptive parents. If you choose this option, this means you will be making a plan for your child to be raised by other parents. If you decide on adoption, then, after your baby has been born, you will sign a document relinquishing your baby for adoption. In most cases, your baby's father will also need to be involved in making this decision.

AGENCIES CAN HELP

In South Carolina there are several licensed adoption agencies listed on the insert in this brochure that offer services to birth parents like you.

These agencies also provide services to adoptive parents. Agency-approved adoptive parents have received specialized counseling and training to prepare them to be adoptive parents. All of these families want to parent a child through adoption, and an agency has approved them as prospective adoptive parents. Although they have these two things in common, there also are differences among these families. Some of these differences may be where they live, their jobs, education, ages, religion, values and interests.

**REMEMBER,
THE FINAL DECISION
ABOUT ADOPTION IS
YOURS!**

IF ADOPTION IS YOUR CHOICE

If you decide on adoption, you may want to think about the type of family in which your child will be placed and raised.

Agencies have different procedures for selecting adoptive families, but all of the agencies are mainly concerned with selecting the best family for each child. You may have a part in this selection process, and whatever part you choose in that process should be based on what you believe is best for you and your child.

Your part may be discussing the kind of family you want for your child, taking into account the different factors in adoptive families. You may want to take an even larger part in the selection process, such as choosing a family based on the information the agency shares with you about several families. You may even want to meet with the prospective family of your child. On the other hand, you may choose not to have any input at all into the selection process. Agencies allow different degrees of participation in the selection process, so you may want to talk to more than one before making a decision. DSS cannot and will not consider birth parents' preferences regarding race, color or national origin in placing their child for adoption.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about adoption, the agencies listed on the insert in this brochure are available to give you more information.

Please remember, the final decision about adoption is yours to make, and the information you share with an agency is confidential.