

Birth Parent Services – Frequently Asked Questions

Are Kinship Center's services free?

Yes. Birth parents are provided free confidential counseling services, assistance in exploring options, and ongoing support.

Will you help me with counseling even though I'm undecided about whether to place my baby for adoption?

Yes. You're responsible for making a decision that will affect the rest of your life and your child's life, and we're here to help you choose the best plan. And if you didn't seek help while you were pregnant, you can still call Kinship Center after the baby is born.

Can I be involved in choosing the family for my baby and is my choice guaranteed?

Yes, you can be as involved as you want to be. You select your baby's new parents and are guaranteed placement with them. You have these choices thorough what we call "open adoption" and you decide how "open" your adoption will be. Kinship Center will help you and the family build and nurture a new and ongoing relationship that benefits your child.

How can I be sure my baby will be placed with a good family?

By choosing a family that has been carefully screened and prepared for parenting. At Kinship Center, we get to know a couple very well before we approve them to be adoptive parents. We want to know that they have a solid marriage and are financially responsible. We discuss their reasons for wanting to adopt, and we get to know their interests, their lifestyle, and their medical history. We even get a fingerprint check and verify that they have no record of criminal activity or child abuse. We provide workshops on adoption and parenting which they must attend. The final decision is yours. You will be able to build a relationship with the family and be secure in your choice of parents for your baby.

Can I get any help from Kinship Center during the pregnancy – like money for expenses?

If you need financial assistance, Kinship Center has adoptive families who can help with your medical care, living expenses, or other costs related to the pregnancy. Kinship Center will also help you apply for any public assistance or insurance benefits to which you are entitled. Referrals for a safe, confidential living situation can also be found for you.

Can my baby go to the adoptive parents right from the hospital?

Yes. If that's your decision at the time, we can help arrange placement from the hospital.

If I choose adoption, when is my decision final?

Under California law, you do not have to decide about the adoption until after your baby is born. It's a good idea to think about your plans as early in your pregnancy as possible, especially if you'd like your baby to go home with the adoptive family directly from the hospital, but Kinship Center will never pressure you to make a decision until you are ready. Once you decide to place your baby for adoption, however, and sign the necessary papers, your decision is permanent. Your baby will legally become a member of the adoptive family and will begin a lifetime relationship with them. This decision affects many people and Kinship Center is available to meet with you and your family.

After the adoption can I know how my baby's getting along?

Kinship Center can help you decide what type of relationship works best for you, your child, and the adoptive family. You and the adoptive family may agree to stay in touch personally and develop an ongoing relationship. We help prepare everybody for the feelings that lie ahead.