



# PRESENTING ADOPTION

## A Guide for Support Providers

There are many effective and positive ways to present adoption as an option to a woman facing an unplanned pregnancy. Below are suggestions for you to adapt to your personal style and needs.

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

- ❖ Have you considered adoption as a possible option?
- ❖ Adoption has changed a lot over the years and expectant mothers are able to make a lot of decisions throughout the process, such as choosing and getting to know the adoptive family.
- ❖ Many young women are considering adoption as a way to give their child the life they want for them.
- ❖ I feel it is my responsibility to make sure you have all of the information about each of the options.
- ❖ I would like you to be able to look back on this conversation and feel I gave you enough information about all of your options.
- ❖ It's important you have all of the information that is available on each option.
- ❖ You sound very confident in your decision and may continue to feel the way you do now. However, if anything changes, I'd like you to have all the information you might need.

### SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Inform, do not persuade. It is important that each woman come to the decision of what is best for her on her own.
- ❖ Be positive. Avoid using negative examples or language. Adoption is ONE loving and responsible option; it is not the ONLY loving and responsible option.
- ❖ Acknowledge that adoption is the right option for some women, but definitely not all.
- ❖ Give the 3-point definition of adoption: the birthparents CHOOSE the adopting parents, they have the opportunity to MEET and get to know them, and can have ONGOING contact if that is something they want.
- ❖ Speak in the third person ie: "birthmothers can choose the adopting parents" rather than "you can choose the adopting parents." Sometimes "you" statements can make a woman who is weighing her options feel pressured or overwhelmed.
- ❖ Include adoption information/brochures for all of your clients – not just in "special cases." In other words, allow each of your clients/patients to weigh ALL of her options for herself.



Listed below are some key facts about adoption that you can include in your conversation if she asks for more information about adoption.

- ❖ Birth mothers can select the parents for her baby and meet and get to know them.
- ❖ All adoptive families go through an extensive process to get approved to adopt. It is called a home study and it requires background checks, home inspections and financial readiness.
- ❖ Birthmothers can spend time with their baby at the hospital if they wish to. They dictate how they want the hospital experience to go.
- ❖ Birthmothers can develop a relationship with the adopting parents that feels comfortable to them and have ongoing contact as the child is growing if they wish.
- ❖ The baby can go directly home from the hospital with the adopting parents without going into foster care.
- ❖ Her decision to place her child for adoption is not final until after the baby is born and she signs consent documents. She is able to weigh her decision and even rethink it, if necessary.
- ❖ An adoption plan can be made at any time, even at the hospital, or after the baby is born.
- ❖ Seeking information from an adoption counselor does not commit someone to choosing adoption. We truly want to help her weigh out her options and make the right decision for her.
- ❖ Adoption does not cost anything for a birthmother. In fact, in some states, a birthmother can receive financial assistance during her pregnancy for pregnancy-related expenses.
- ❖ Even if a birthmother chooses an open adoption, her decision is still confidential and private. She has the right to decide who, among her family and friends, will know about her adoption plan.
- ❖ The birthfather will likely need to be notified of the adoption plan. It is best to discuss her own individual circumstances with an adoption counselor to get a clear picture of her state's laws.
- ❖ Adoption is an incredibly difficult and emotional decision, but with our ongoing support, many women come to be proud of their decision.