

## ADOPTION CIRCLE

*Because We Care  
About You & Your Baby*

[www.adoptioncircle.org](http://www.adoptioncircle.org)

For More Information  
Or To Schedule  
An Appointment  
With A Social Worker  
Please Call  
**1-800-927-7222**

Dear Birthparent,

We know that you and every birthparent who calls us has searched their heart to make the right decision for their baby. Adoption is a permanent life-long decision that requires courage, responsibility, unselfishness and love of yourself and your child. Adoption Circle is an Ohio based, state-licensed, non-profit adoption agency that believes all parents want to make decisions that are in best interest of their children. When the choice is adoption, Adoption Circle's caring and compassionate staff will personally work with you to design your adoption plan. Working together builds trust and comfort, the foundation for a positive adoption experience. We are proud that our circle stands as a symbol of the life-long relationship between adoptive and birth families, children and adoption professionals. Adoption Circle pledges its support to you, we want you to be fully informed, this decision is yours to make.

### *Adoption Circle Provides the Following Services to You, the Birthparent*

- You and the family select each other through ADOPTION CIRCLE
- ADOPTION CIRCLE will make every effort to meet your requests for openness in your adoption
- No foster care is required with ADOPTION CIRCLE. ADOPTION CIRCLE is available to accept custody and place the child with the adoptive family 72 plus hours after birth. In those cases, no foster care is required. However, foster care is available if you need additional time to consider your decision.
- All medical expenses for you and your baby which are not covered by health insurance will be paid by the adoptive parents after placement.
- ADOPTION CIRCLE can assist you in locating a physician who will provide you and your baby with quality medical care. Adoption circle can also arrange transportation to prenatal appointments.
- Generally, no court appearance is required.
- ADOPTION CIRCLE can arrange for you to speak with an attorney regarding your legal rights in an adoption. If you do not have an attorney, ADOPTION CIRCLE will provide or offer appropriate referrals. All legal fees incurred for the adoption will be paid by the adoptive parents.

- Counseling is very important when making an adoption plan. Although it is not required, ADOPTION CIRCLE encourages counseling throughout the decision-making process. Counseling is available through ADOPTION CIRCLE's state-licensed, professional social workers.
- You do not need to travel to work with ADOPTION CIRCLE. ADOPTION CIRCLE's social worker will come to you. We provide adoption services throughout Ohio.
- Maternity clothing is available upon your request.
- ADOPTION CIRCLE can assist you in securing housing during your pregnancy, if requested.

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*"I want you to know meeting you has had an impact on my life directly; inasmuch as I now have the knowledge and understanding that adoptions give life as much as birth itself. Without people like you, many babies might not have their first breath. I am really grateful for agencies such as Adoption Circle."*

*Adrian, Birthmother*

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1. *What type of adoption plan is available for me?*

Adoption Circle works with you as you decide what type of adoption is best for you and your baby. You may choose:...

**Open Adoption:** Includes the birthparents and adoptive parents meeting one another, sharing full identifying information, and having access to ongoing contact over the years.

**Openness in Adoption:** Refers to various forms of communication between birthparents and adoptive parents, such as exchanging letters and pictures, meeting on the first name only basis, meeting once but not engaging in ongoing contact.

**Closed Adoption:** When the birthparents request that the agency choose an adoptive family for their baby, or they choose the family from agency profiles, but do not meet them. No information, except social/ medical (which Ohio law requires), is shared with the adoptive family.

Adoption Circle believes that the birthparent and adoptive parents should design their own adoption plan. Therefore, our agency facilitates individual adoption plans for each and every birthparent.

2. *How does a family become approved to adopt?*

All adoptive families that are approved to adopt through Adoption Circle have met and exceeded all of the ridged requirements mandated under Ohio law. An Adoption Circle social worker meets with the family in their home to assess their ability/potential to become adoptive parents. References, criminal record checks, financial statements and the adoptive parents home itself are all reviewed by the agency worker as part of the approval/Homestudy process. Adoption Circle requires that all prospective adoptive parents be certified in an infant CPR and complete a childcare class. All families must complete an extensive education process that includes how to talk to your child about adoption and relationship building with birthparents.

3. *Will there be a family for my baby?*

Adoption Circle believes that all children are wanted and has approved family's ready to adopt children of all races and medical backgrounds.

4. *Will my baby have to go to foster care?*

No. Your baby can go home from the hospital with the parents you have selected foster care is available if you need additional time to consider your decision.

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*“How can I ever thank you for all you have done for us!! Knowing that our baby has been placed in a wonderful home means the world to us. Everyone at Adoption Circle has been so helpful. God bless you.”*

*Natalie, Birthmother*

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5. *How do I select the adoptive family?*

Birthparents who work with Adoption Circle choose how they select an adoptive family. Some birth parents choose to review profiles written by the prospective adoptive parents. While others will request that the agency select an adoptive family. If you choose to read profiles you will have the opportunity to hear about different adoptive families and their lives. The profiles describe a family’s strengths, weaknesses, occupations, education, hobbies, leisure activities, courtship, marriage, family life, religion, home, neighborhood, and infertility issues. Getting to know the families through their profiles enables you to select a family that you believe will meet the needs of your child. You also are able to select the religion and where your child will be raised (in Ohio or another state). You have the opportunity to meet with them or talk with them over the telephone if you would like.

6. *How will my child be able to find me later in life if he/she desires?*

One of the forms that you complete with your social worker allows you to authorize or prohibit the release of identifying information to your child when they are an adult. You can write a letter to your child and share all the identifying information. Or you may choose to share this identifying information with the adoptive family during your adoption planning. At Adoption Circle we encourage all of our adoptive families and birthparents to keep us informed of their current address and telephone number so that we can assist in families whenever possible.

7. *What information, if any, is needed by the birthfather?*

Although an adoption can take place without the birthfathers involvement, it is in the best interest of all parties for him to participate. Adoption Circle believes it is important, if at all possible, for the birth father to be actively involved, as early as possible, in the adoption process. This is only possible if they can provide the agency with the information to contact the birthfather. Children deserve a complete medical history and a legally sound adoption. A court hearing may be scheduled to legally terminate his parental rights.

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*“Thank you for being a great adoption social worker and a kind friend. Your sincerity and generosity has helped me so much, you’ll never know the extent. You’re truly a wonderful person with a big heart. I am glad we were able to work together.”*

*Jessica, Birthmother*

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8. *May I write the adoptive parents or my child a letter explaining to the reasons for making and adoption plan, and will I have the assurance that they will receive and read it.*

Absolutely!! As a matter of fact Adoption Circle strongly encourages the birthparents to write these letters. Most adoptive parents ask to have these for the children. Adoption Circle can provide birthparents with journals to write their letters. If you choose you may give the letter or journal to the adoptive family or ask Adoption Circle to do so.

9. *Are there any costs for me, the birthparent, if I choose an adoption plan with Adoption Circle?*

No. Your Legal, medical and counseling expenses that are a part of the adoption process are paid by the adoptive parents. Adoption Circle also may assist you with maternity clothes, housing, or other pregnancy and adoption expenses mandated under Ohio law.

10. *What kind of contact will I have with my child after the adoption?*

The contact that you have will depend on the adoption plan that you design with the adoptive family. Adoption Circle has a policy that adoptive parents are to send pictures and letters for the birthparents, once a month for the first year. The agency encourages annual update pictures and letters after the first year as agreed upon by both birth and adoptive parents.

11. *Will I have to go to court?*

No. If the child is under 6 months of age and the birthparent is working with Adoption Circle it is not usually necessary to appear in court to relinquish parental rights.

12. *Will my family and friends be able to visit with my baby in the hospital?*

Yes!! Absolutely!! Adoption Circle encourages birthparents, their families and friends to see the baby and to have as much contact as desired with your child prior to placement. We believe it is an important time for you and the baby. However, if you do not wish to see the baby while in the hospital, that request will be respected. It is important to remember that you the birthparent are in charge of making decisions about you and your baby. Adoption Circle encourages birthparents to verbalize all their special requests regarding the adoption. We make every effort to assist you in completing the plan as you design it.

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“It was great to see you again! Thanks for holding the support group meetings. You are very patient and understanding. You do a great job as a social worker and a friend.”

Sarah, Birthmother

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### **Legacy of an Adopted Child**

Once there were two women  
Who never knew each other.  
One you do not remember,  
The other you call Mother.

Two different lives,  
Shaped to make yours the one.

One became your guiding star,  
The other became your sun.

The first gave you life,  
And the second taught you to live in it.  
The first gave you a need for love,  
And the second was there to give it.

One gave you a nationality,  
The other gave you a name.  
One gave you the seed of talent,  
The other gave you an aim.

One gave you emotions,  
The other calmed your fears.  
One saw your first sweet smile,  
The other dried your tears.

One gave you up -  
It was all that she could do.  
The other prayed for a child,  
And God led her straight to you.

And now you ask me,  
Through your tears,  
The age-old question  
Through the years.

Heredity or environment -  
Which are you the product of?  
Neither, my darling - neither,  
Just two different kinds of love.

- Author Unknown

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