



Agency Adoption vs. Private Adoption

For Adoptive Families

Locating a Birthmother:

AGENCY – New Life Adoptions works with birthmothers; screening them and counseling them before you ever have contact with them.

PRIVATE – You will be responsible for advertising or locating a birthmother, then determining whether she is “legitimate” or not. Caution should be exercised – some people (usually good-intentioned but uninformed) would want to match you with a pregnant woman. Child-placing is illegal; there are also laws that affect how you can pursue a birthmother.

Birthmother’s Needs:

AGENCY - New Life ministers to pregnant women in a variety of ways. Medical care, family relationships, housing and her emotional health are important to us.

PRIVATE – In adoption, financial assistance to pregnant women is regulated by law. You should research this issue and be cautious about financial issues.

Adoptive Family Needs:

AGENCY - Your counselor will spend time with you exploring your wishes in regard to your adoption plan. Your counselor will be supportive of your needs during the time you are waiting for a baby and after the birth of the baby.

PRIVATE - You will be responsible to insure that your thoughts and opinions are heard and given full consideration.

Home Screening:

AGENCY - A New Life licensed social worker will complete your home screening as a part of the application process. This service is included in the adoption fee.

PRIVATE - You will need to seek out a licensed social worker who is knowledgeable in the applicable laws and requirements of the home screening process.

Training:

AGENCY - You will receive extensive training about adoption issues, and your viewpoints as adoptive parents will be explored. You will learn how to relate to a birthmother, receive guidance about communication and how to develop a healthy relationship with her. You will receive counseling about what is reasonable and beneficial to your child, and learn how to share your child’s adoption story with him/her through the years.

PRIVATE – The burden of researching adoption-related issues will be yours.



Personal Information:

AGENCY – You will have control over how much information you want the birth family to have about you.

PRIVATE - Full disclosure of identifying information (last names, phone numbers, addresses, etc.) will be shared. This may be uncomfortable for birth families or adoptive families.

Continued Contact:

AGENCY - The agency will help to nurture an ongoing relationship between you and the birth family for many years to come. ***The agency works to maintain current contact information on both parties.*** The agency will be the “middle man” in communication between you and the birth family and will be available through the years to counsel with you about what is best for your child.

PRIVATE - There is no advocate for you as you work to fulfill the expectations of a relationship and the emotional highs and lows that this process can involve.

Birthfather:

AGENCY – The agency will work with the birthfather and/or the courts to pursue the legal process of termination of parental rights. The adoptive family will not have to be involved in this process.

PRIVATE – It is often the responsibility of the adoptive family to locate and pursue contact with the birthfather to ensure that the legal process can move forward.

Attorney/Court:

AGENCY -You will not need to have an attorney, nor will you need to go to court. The agency will handle all legal details for you. Our agency attorney has handled has worked with us for almost 15 years and handled many adoptions. ***Your adoption fee covers the legal expense of terminating the birthparents rights.***

PRIVATE -You will need to insure that a competent attorney handles all legal issues pertaining to the adoption. ***You will be responsible for all fees. If you are in a different state than the birthmother, the attorney will need to be familiar with interstate adoption laws.***