

Facing an unplanned pregnancy can be a scary, stressful and confusing time. But it is important to know you have choices and that we're here to help.



How can Adoption Options help me?

Our staff provides birthmothers and birthfathers with one-on-one, non-coercive, non-judgmental, confidential counseling at no cost. A licensed social worker will meet with you to discuss your available options and assist you with decision making, parenting resources, adoption planning, and post-adoption counseling. Your counselor will provide you with the factual information necessary to make the best decision for you and your child – whatever that decision may be.

How can I find out more?

Call our FREE 24-hour Counseling Hotline at 1.888.325.6621



Part of  Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ

Building Families Since 1948

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey began with the establishment of an orphanage in Jersey City in 1904. We have been a licensed adoption agency since 1948. We offer a multi-faceted statewide adoption program, focused on building healthy families and supporting all those touched by adoption. We are dedicated to serving all people regardless of faith, income, race, and marital status. We provide compassionate, caring services for all those involved in the adoption process.

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Adoption OPTiONS

Unplanned Pregnancy?



Adoption is a
Loving Plan.

www.adoptionoptionslsmnj.org

24-hour Counseling Hotline 1.888.325.6621

■ YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE THIS DECISION ALONE.

What choices do I have?

There are many more choices in adoption today. We will support you as you make decisions throughout this process. If you decide to plan an adoption, your most important decision will be: "Who should raise my baby - if not me?" We will provide you with profiles on families who are eager and ready to adopt a baby. Families prepare their own profiles which include photographs and details about the kind of lifestyle they lead. Our families have varied interests, religions, values & backgrounds.

What if I decide to raise my child?

If you decide parenting is best for you and your baby, your counselor can help you find resources for housing, health insurance & parenting skills, depending on your needs.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

Are all Adoptions the same?

No. The adoption relationship is based on a mutual agreement you establish with the adoptive family you choose. Birthparents can decide on a level of openness or ongoing contact that feels right for them.

What is Open Adoption?

You can choose to have an open adoption, which offers your child the opportunity to have a connection with you. Some birthparents choose to receive photographs and letters throughout the years so that they can have the joy of watching their child grow up. Other birth and adoptive parents enjoy a greater level of openness and have visits over the years.

What happens if I decide to place my baby in an Open Adoption?

An Open Adoption plan is tailored to the wishes of the birthparents and adoptive parents. Open Adoption always puts the needs of the child first.

Birthparents are free to choose one of the many screened and available families hoping to adopt a baby through our program.

If you wish to meet with the adoptive parents, your counselor will attend the meeting to help facilitate the discussion. You may involve the adoptive parents in your hospital stay and ask them to take the baby home afterwards.



YOU HAVE OPTIONS.

What about the birthfather of my baby?

Birthfathers are encouraged to be actively involved. They are welcome to participate in the planning of the adoption and have ongoing contact with the adoptive family too.

Can I change my mind after my baby is placed with their new family?

You should take as long as you need to make the most important decision for you and your baby. New Jersey law states that you can sign legal documents terminating your parental rights as early as 72 hours after the birth of your baby. After you sign these documents you will not be able to change your mind.

How do I know the adoptive parents will be good parents?

All adoptive families have been homestudied by a licensed social worker. The homestudy process includes fingerprinting and child abuse clearances, education, as well as multiple interviews to assess whether or not a family has the capability to provide a safe, loving, healthy and nurturing home for a child. Once a child is placed in the home, Adoption Options will continue to supervise the placement to ensure that all of the child's needs are being met in a loving and caring way.