

What if I change my mind after I sign the papers giving up my parental rights?

In Iowa, birth-parents have to wait three days following the baby's birth to sign the form to terminate parental rights, with an additional four days after that to change their minds.

In Illinois, birth-parents must wait three days before signing over their parental rights; their rights terminate upon the signing of these termination documents.

What if my child wants to find me, or if I want to find my child when he/she grows up?

Contact can only occur if this is mutually agreed upon. Both the birth-parents and the child must give Bethany permission to contact them if this is desired.



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Adoption Q & A

Information for those considering adoption for their child



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A birth parent's questions about *Adoption*



If I choose to have my baby adopted by someone, how do I know they will be good people?

Bethany for Children & Families completes a thorough study of each individual or couple who comes to us expressing a desire to adopt. The process that adoptive parents go through involves a criminal background check, a review of the child abuse registry, numerous home visits by a trained professional adoption worker, a review of the family's financial stability, letters of reference testifying about their character, and attendance at several preparation classes.



Why do adoptive parents want to adopt?

Many adoptive parents cannot have children of their own due to medical reasons. Other adoptive parents cannot have more children and want a brother or sister for the child they already have.

Do I get to choose the parents for my child?

This is an option for the birth-parents. They can look at a picture album and letters from the adoptive parents and they have the opportunity to meet and know the adoptive parents on a first name basis.

Will I receive pictures of my child?

There are three adoption options from which birth-parents can choose.

- A closed adoption in which the birthparent chooses not to have or receive any information regarding the placement of the child.
- A semi-open adoption in which the birthparent and adoptive parents exchange pictures and letters with non-identifying information through the agency until the child is 18 years of age.
- An open-adoption in which birth-parents and adoptive parents know each other and may have contact with each other throughout the years.

Is counseling available?

Yes. Bethany provides free counseling to explore all of the options available to an individual or couple who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.



Are my records confidential if I choose adoption for my baby?

Yes. These records are always kept confidential and any release of information, other than non-identifying medical information, requires your permission.

Am I responsible for the doctor and hospital bills?

Bethany can make arrangements for the baby's hospital expenses. In some cases, the adoptive family may pay the birthmother's hospital expenses.

What are the father's rights?

The birth-father has the same rights as the birth-mother and is not obligated to choose adoption if the birth-mother does.

What if I am uncertain who the father is?

If the birth-father is not known or can't be located, an attempt to contact him is made by the Bethany staff or attorney. The birth announcement is published to any possible father, and they must contact an attorney if they are interested in parenting.

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Keeping *children* safe, strengthening *families*, and building healthy *communities* since 1899.