

The Family to Family Adoption Support Program is offered through Parker Adventist Hospital in Parker, Colorado.

It offers adoption resources and agency information to families considering an adoption plan and provides education to prospective adoptive parents. Family to Family also offers community education and outreach for all parties involved in adoption placements.

For more information and to locate a list of Parker Hospital OB/GYN offices that understand the option of adoption, please visit our website: [parkerhospital.org/adoptionsupport](http://parkerhospital.org/adoptionsupport)

*Parker Adventist Hospital is not an adoption agency and does not provide legal adoption advice or services.*

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## Family to Family Adoption Support Program at Parker Adventist Hospital

 Centura Health.

9395 Crown Crest Blvd.  
Parker, CO 80138

[parkerhospital.org/adoptionsupport](http://parkerhospital.org/adoptionsupport)  
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# It's **your** choice...



## Considering the Option of Adoption

Family to Family Adoption Support Program at Parker Adventist Hospital

 Centura Health.

## Some Things to Ask Yourself If You Are Thinking About Adoption

- \* Am I ready to be a parent?
- \* Can I afford to be a parent now?
- \* What would it mean for my future if I had a child now?
- \* Can I accept someone else parenting my child?
- \* Is someone pressuring me to choose adoption?
- \* Will I be able to cope with the feeling of loss that I may have?
- \* Do I have people in my life who will help me through the pregnancy and adoption process?
- \* How do I feel about other women who choose to place their children for adoption?
- \* How important is it to me what other people will think about my decision?

**These are all important issues to think about.** You may want to discuss your answers with your partner, someone in your family, a friend, a trusted religious advisor, or an adoption agency counselor.



*Adoption was one of the best decisions I have ever made! My daughter is in a happy family and she is taken care of very well. I can still live the life that I planned and keep her in it."*

*~ Jenni, 17 yr. old BirthMom with an open adoption*

*Making choices* regarding your pregnancy can be confusing and scary. You have choices to consider and options to investigate. Adoption is one of those options. Most people have some information about adoption, but often it comes from media stories or made-for-TV-movies. The goal of this brochure is to give you accurate information that will empower you to make an intentional decision that is best for you. If you choose to continue your pregnancy, you can choose to parent, or you can choose someone else to parent your child. You can pick someone you already know or may choose someone through an adoption agency.



# The option of adoption...

## Types of Adoption

**There are many types of adoption from which to choose:**

### Open Adoption

This is the most common type of adoption. Both families share personal identifying information and contact is direct and ongoing. This allows you the option of having phone calls, visits, or some type of contact that gives you the opportunity to watch your child grow. Open adoption varies from one case to another based on the degree of openness the birth and adoptive parents agree upon.

### Semi-open Adoption

With this type of adoption, identifying information is kept confidential and communication happens through a third-party such as an adoption agency or an attorney. Both parties agree to keep a current address with the third party so contact can continue throughout the course of the child's life. Visits also can be possible in this type of adoption.

### Kinship Adoption

This type of adoption allows a family member to raise your child. State laws vary, but most states have a simplified adoption process for family members. You could consider whether there is someone in your family whom you would want to adopt this child. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters could be considered.

### Closed Adoption

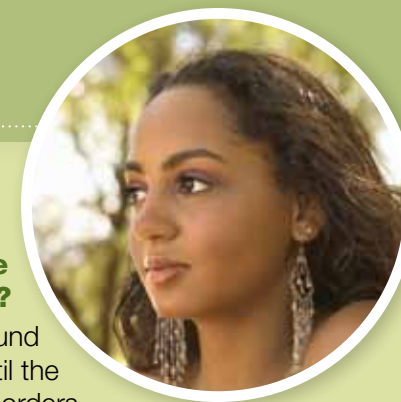
In this type of adoption, identifying information is kept confidential. While you could meet the family, no ongoing contact is expected after placement.



**36** *I placed my child 14 years ago and I love knowing that I made someone's family complete. 9 months is not long at all in the grand scheme of life, and I can honestly say that it was the best decision I ever made."*

~ Kristina, 33 yr. old BirthMom

# Frequently Asked Questions



### **Can I call an adoption agency and discuss adoption without "signing up"?**

Absolutely! Agency caseworkers talk to women and couples about adoption all the time! This counseling is a great way to really investigate not only the option of adoption, but also parenting resources that are available. It is free of charge and free of pressure. No matter what you choose, they will be glad they could help you create an adoption plan or a parenting plan!

### **Do my parents need to know?**

Legally, they do not. However, if you are under 18, some Colorado judges require that your parent or legal guardians witness your legal paperwork. If you are over 18, you don't need to tell your parents if you do not want to. Agencies are not required to notify them and will keep your case completely confidential.

### **Can I choose a family for my child?**

Yes! This is a very important part of making a good plan for you and your child. Adoption agencies have family photo albums, videos, or websites that you can look at to choose a family that matches your desires. You may want a family with kids or no kids, dogs or cats, extended family, certain hobbies, etc. All families are unique so you can choose the perfect match for your child. It is up to you!

### **Can I change my mind after I make an adoption plan?**

Yes, you are not bound by your decision until the court signs the final orders.

### **Will I have to tell the baby's father?**

In Colorado, he will have to be notified of the adoption plan. That is the job of the agency and you will not have to be in contact with him if you don't want to.

### **What if I don't know who the father is?**

That's okay! An agency can still help you make an adoption plan. This is more common than you think!

### **How much will it cost me to do an adoption plan?**

It will not cost you any money to make an adoption plan, for the counseling involved, or the legal process itself. In fact, if you need support during your pregnancy, an adoptive family may be able to help you with pregnancy related expenses.

### **How are adoptive families approved?**

All families go through an extensive assessment including background checks and interviews – both separately and together. Agencies also require references for the couple, along with many other requirements such as health reports, financial records and required parenting education.

**36** *After years of not being able to have children, my life completely changed when we adopted our daughter. We will forever be thankful to her BirthParents for choosing us to raise this little girl."*

~ Rebecca, Adoptive Mom