



# Illini Christian Ministries, Inc.

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Building Families

Building Lives

Building Hope

## Frequently Asked Questions By Birthparents

- **Where do I begin if I am interested in making an adoption plan for my baby?**

The next step in making an adoption plan for your child is to contact Illini Christian Ministries' birthparent counselor, Amanda Cooper. She will be able to answer any questions that you have and will assist you in beginning the adoption planning process. She will walk beside you every step of the way and help you in every way she can.

- **I am at the end of my pregnancy or have already had my baby. Is it too late to make an adoption plan?**

It is never too late to make an adoption plan for your child. We have had many women call us from the hospital to begin the adoption process. You are able to make an adoption plan at any time.

- **Can I receive financial assistance during the adoption process?**

Financial assistance is available during your pregnancy for rent, utilities, food, clothing, and other daily essentials.

- **What if I am unsure of who the father of the baby is, or if I do not know him?**

Many pregnant women do not know who the father of their baby is, and that is fine. We will assist you with taking the necessary steps to ensure that his rights are terminated. It is very important for you to be as honest as possible with your caseworker regarding the identity of the father.

- **How do I tell my family about the pregnancy and adoption?**

For many women, this is often one of the most difficult aspects of making an adoption plan. Our caseworkers are available to assist with these conversations. We can also answer any questions that your family may have regarding the adoption process.

- **Can I choose the adoptive family?**

Absolutely! We have a number of potential adoptive families awaiting the child God has for their family. We will show you profiles that they have put together about their family, home, and lifestyle, and then you are able to choose the family that you would like to be the adoptive family of your child.

- **Can I meet the adoptive family?**

You can have as much contact with the adoptive family as you would like. If you prefer not to meet them, that is fine as well. The decision regarding contact with the adoptive family is completely yours to make.

- **Can I remain in contact with the adoptive family after the adoption is completed?**

Yes, and there are several ways to do so. If both you and the adoptive family are comfortable with exchanging contact information directly, you are able to do so. If you are not comfortable with exchanging contact information directly, letters and pictures can be sent through Illini Christian Ministries, protecting the privacy of everyone involved. Occasionally, birthparents and adoptive families have even done visits with one another after the adoption is completed.

- **Will I get to see, hold, and spend time with the baby after the birth?**

Each mother is able to see, hold, and spend as much time with her baby as she would like. Some mothers choose to spend the entire time in the hospital with the baby, and some choose to not spend any time with the baby. Your caseworker will assist you in making a plan that is best for you and suits your emotional needs.

- **When will parental rights be terminated?**

In the state of Illinois, a mother's rights are not able to be terminated until the child is 72 hours old. At that point, the mother is able to sign the document terminating her parental rights. Her rights are irrevocably terminated at the moment she signs the termination paperwork. The father's rights are able to be terminated at any time, even before the child is born. His rights are also terminated the moment he signs the termination paperwork.

- **Will my child be able to locate me?**

Illini Christian Ministries is dedicated to protecting the privacy of our clients. We will never release the personal information of our clients. Our agency will abide by the Continuing Contact Contract which is written with the birthparents and adoptive family.

- **What is the next step in making an adoption plan for my baby?**

The next step in making an adoption plan is to contact our Birthparent Counselor, Amanda Cooper. She will be able to answer any questions that you might have and assist you in working towards a healthy pregnancy and an adoption plan that best suits your needs and desires. She can be contacted by phone at (217) 355-4446 or by email at [adopt@icmfamily.org](mailto:adopt@icmfamily.org).