



# Illini Christian Ministries, Inc.

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Building Families

Building Lives

Building Hope

## The Adoption Process

When making an adoption plan for your baby, you may not know where to begin or what steps to take in doing so. Our caseworkers are able to walk beside you during every step of the process and assist you as you make your adoption plan for your baby. You are able to contact our agency at any time during or after your pregnancy in order to make an adoption plan for your baby. Meetings are then scheduled where you can sit down with your adoption worker and discuss the adoption process and your situation. All of the adoption paperwork and legalities will be handled by your adoption worker.

During one of your meetings with your adoption worker, you will be able to look through adoptive parent profiles and choose the adoptive parents you would like to adopt your child. You are also able to meet and speak with the adoptive family if you would like to do so.

Your adoption worker will then work with you towards experiencing a healthy pregnancy, labor, and delivery. At the time that the baby is born, your adoption worker is able to be at the hospital with you if you would like. She will assist in handling the hospital arrangements and be a support for you throughout the entire experience. While in the hospital, you are able to name the baby. You are also able to hold the baby, feed the baby, etc., as much or as little as you would prefer. The adoptive family is also able to be at the hospital, but whether or not they are at the hospital is completely your decision.

When the baby is 72 hours old, your parental rights are able to be terminated. Your adoption worker will provide you with the required legal documents and explain each one to you. She will then take care of filing the documents in court for you. Once the adoption process is complete, your adoption worker will follow up with you. If you need counseling or any additional services or support, your adoption worker will assist you in setting these up.

*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. She can be contacted by phone at (217) 355-4446 or by email at [adopt@icmfamily.org](mailto:adopt@icmfamily.org).*