

Myths and facts about adoption...



Open adoptions are changing the face of adoption by putting the child's needs at the forefront. Think you know adoption? You may be surprised.

Myth: Choosing adoption means I don't really love my baby.

FACT: Individuals who explore adoption are motivated by their love and concern for their child. Typically, people who make an adoption plan are doing so because they feel the child's needs will best be met through adoption.

Myth: I got myself into this; I need to do the responsible thing and keep my baby.

FACT: Considering your options does demonstrate taking responsibility. There is no "right" answer. Exploring your circumstances, your feelings, and the needs of your child will empower you to make a decision that's right for you.

Myth: If I planned an adoption, I would never see my child again.

FACT: Today, most U.S. adoptions are open, with some form of ongoing contact. At OA&FS, birthparents develop a relationship with the adoptive family and create a legally enforceable agreement for ongoing visits with their child. The birthparent's role is honored and respected.

Myth: If I plan an adoption, I will be haunted by grief and guilt.

FACT: There is grief and loss in adoption; however, open adoption allows you to have a role in your child's life and the ability to see your child thrive in his/her adoptive family. This brings birthparents peace of mind. By having a relationship with you, your child will experience firsthand your ongoing love and support.

Myth: The birthfather does not care about me or the baby.

FACT: A lack of birthfather involvement does not necessarily reflect a lack of concern. Birthfathers are often unsure about their role. Given the opportunity to have a voice in the process and receive counseling and support, they often become involved in the process.

Myth: I will have little or no control in the adoption process.

FACT: When working with an agency like OA&FS, birthparents are empowered to create an adoption plan that reflects their needs. There are many choices birthparents have that will shape their adoption such as, determining the level of openness they are seeking, hand-selecting an adoptive family, and deciding how involved the adoptive family will be during their pregnancy and birth. Through active participation in their open adoption, birthparents will continue to shape how their open adoption relationship evolves over time.

Myth: Open adoption is confusing for children.

FACT: Secrets are confusing and unhealthy for children. Open adoption removes the mystery and allows the child's questions to be answered in an open and honest manner. With the love and support of their birth and adoptive families, children develop high self-esteem and a healthy sense of identity.

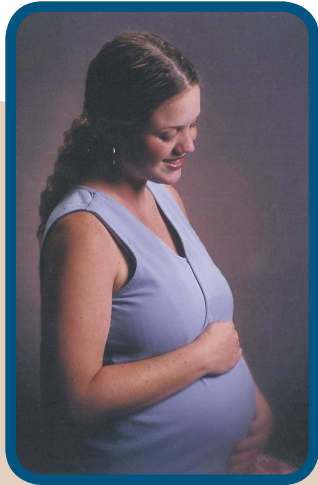
Myth: My friends and family would think badly of me if I planned an adoption.

FACT: Many people are still unfamiliar with open adoption. You may need to educate your friends and family so they have a better understanding of your experience. If you feel comfortable and confident in your open adoption plan, that will set the stage for how they perceive your decision. One birthfather said, "I always tell people I placed my son in an open adoption. I've never met someone who thought less of me after they understood what open adoption is."

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You have choices...

At Open Adoption & Family Services, we're here to listen, support and empower you to create a plan for your child's future. You will always be important in your child's life. We'll help you make your open adoption vision a reality.



You will be treated with dignity and respect as you **EXPLORE ALL OF YOUR OPTIONS**. We are here to listen and support you as you make the decision that's right for you.

OA&FS adoptions are **TRULY OPEN**. Our adoptive parents genuinely want a lifelong relationship with you. Together, you create a comfortable and relaxed friendship.

In our **CHILD-CENTERED** open adoption program, you and the adoptive parents create a lifelong relationship that will meet the child's ongoing needs.

You are the most qualified person to **CHOOSE ADOPTIVE PARENTS** for your child. We have 40 to 60 carefully screened families for you to consider. Or you can come to us with an adoptive family you've already chosen.

Your ongoing needs are important to us. Our open adoption counseling, guidance and support will be available to you **FREE OF CHARGE** throughout the life of your adoption.

You and the adoptive parents create a **LEGALLY ENFORCEABLE** agreement for ongoing visits. The average number of visits is 3 to 4 per year, but you choose the level of openness that feels comfortable to you.

You will be a member of our **OPEN ADOPTION COMMUNITY**, which includes birthmother retreats, opportunities to connect with other birthparents, open adoption relationship workshops, and community gatherings.

Not all adoptions are alike: OA&FS is unique

You can **TRUST THE EXPERTS** at Open Adoption & Family Services. Since bringing open adoption to the Northwest almost 25 years ago, we have completed over 1,000 open adoptions, more than any other private agency in Oregon or Washington.

Our local counselors are available to you 24/7 at 1-800-772-1115.

24/7 TOLL FREE
1-800-772-1115

PARA ESPAÑOL
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