## Adoption





Jounding Year of OA&FS: 1985







• With single parenting and abortion now viable options, only 3% of pregnant women choose adoption.

- Closed adoption practices are prevalent.
- Shame and secrecy cloaks adoption; the stigma adversely impacts everyone involved.
- Adoption climate and practices are influenced by the lingering distrust of adoption caused by the unethical orphan train and Baby Scoop era practices.
- There's a paradigm shift in adoption practices towards more openness.
- The internet creates a "wild, wild west" environment with unregulated adoption practices and for-profit agendas.
- Reality TV shows such as "Teen Mom" and "I'm Having Their Baby" influence cultural assumptions about adoption.
- Birthparents have a stronger voice in shaping their adoption.
- Access to legally enforceable agreements for ongoing visits and adoption records is only available in select states.
- Closed adoptions are a thing of the distant past.
- There is no longer shame and secrecy associated with being a birthparent, adoptive parent or adoptee.
- Due to the open adoption reform movement, openness is regarded as the healthiest form of adoption for all participants, and is universally extended to international, state and domestic adoptions.
- Gay marriage and adoption are not only legal worldwide, but widely accepted.

Open Adoption

- A small group of social workers question the ethics of closed adoption and creates a national open adoption movement. Their goal is to create a new form of adoption that better meets the needs of all participants.
- Open adoption is a fledgling concept that is initally regarded with suspicion and disdain.
- OA&FS overcomes these barriers and becomes the first agency to offer open adoption in the Northwest.
- 95% of adoption agencies offer some form of open adoption.
- OA&FS has completed 1,350 adoptions, is regarded as the expert on open adoption in the Northwest, and launches a national expansion.
- OA&FS creates a collaborative relationship with Oregon Department of Human Services in which high-risk moms can proactively plan an open adoption before their parental rights are terminated

- All adoptions are open and include a genuine extended family relationship.
- The OA&FS collaborative model with Oregon's DHS is practiced nationwide, freeing children from a life in foster care.
- The lessons learned in open adoption regarding the importance of healthy relationships and identity building are brought to families created by surrogacy and assisted reproductive technology.

Pregnant women and couples have access to

they feel heard, valued and respected.

all-options pregnancy counseling no matter

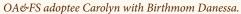
Expectant parents can create adoptions in which

Birthparents have a voice in shaping the future

International Adoption

- International adoptions steadily increase among American couples.
- Evangelical movement through the churches encourages international adoption.
- Closed adoption is widespread, giving birthparents no voice in their adoption plan.
- Coercion, secrecy, and regret are commonly experienced.
- OA&FS opens its doors, providing expectant parents with high-integrity and empowering practices in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

- The Hague International Adoption Treaty uncovers corruption and unethical practices in international adoptions worldwide.
- International adoptions plummet.
- "Re-homing" of older adopted children makes the news.
- OA&FS is one of the only agencies in the country to provide expectant parents with; all-options pregnancy counseling; complete information on a diverse pool of families (including same sex couples); fully open adoptions with legally enforceable contracts for ongoing visits and lifelong services.
- Expectant parents use the internet as an adoption assessment and research tool.



- Domestic adoption established in other countries so children can be raised within their own culture.
- Open adoption reform advocates bring openness to international adoption.

where they live.



- Adult adoptees and birthparents involved in closed adoptions begin to speak out, protesting the secrecy and lack of information.
- The first open adoptees are born.

- The first open adoptees are now young adults. • Adoptees share their experiences, connect and join forces using
- Social media allows adoptees and birthparents to find one another.
- open adoption.
- Adoptees are able to articulate their experience and shape the field of
- Open adoptees, like Nathan, determine the new face of adoption.

of adoption.

Open adoptees ensure that every state in the nation has legally enforceable agreements for ongoing visits, fully open adoptions and access to adoption records.

OA&FS adoptee Nathan



OA&FS adoptees Stacey, Isaac, Kaya and Clark (l-r).

Adoptees

