

OPEN ADOPTION: AN ALTERNATIVE TO STATE ADOPTION.



Choices for pregnant and parenting moms
at risk of state child welfare involvement.

If you struggle with issues related to:

- Mental Health
- Homelessness
- Addiction
- Domestic Violence
- Incarceration
- Or Other Challenges

➤ You're at risk of child welfare involvement which could include your child being placed in foster care.



It's important
to carefully
consider
your options:

REUNIFICATION

STATE ADOPTION

OA&FS OPEN ADOPTION

At Open Adoption & Family Services (OA&FS):

- You access free services and resources.
- You make an informed choice.
- You are supported no matter what you decide.



Talk to a Counselor 24/7



OPEN ADOPTION
& FAMILY SERVICES

1-800-772-1115 OPENADOPT.ORG

Para Español 1-800-985-6763. Text "open" to 971-266-0924.
(Text answering available 9 am-5 pm PT M-F.)

REUNIFICATION

➤ A reunification path may include:

- Resource Support Such as Parenting Classes
- Mental Health Assessment and Counseling
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Domestic Violence Intervention

➤ This path to reunification with your child may give you the outcome you hoped for.

But sometimes parents continue to struggle. Your child may go back and forth into foster care, which is difficult for them and you.

➤ A state adoption is the likely next step if:

- This path does not lead to reunification.
- You don't feel like you can complete the reunification requirements.
- You don't feel able to parent at the time.


STATE ADOPTION

➤ If your path doesn't lead to reunification, there are two types of state adoption.

- Voluntary relinquishment. You sign adoption paperwork.
- Involuntary relinquishment. There's a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) hearing.

➤ With either type ...

- Your child will spend months or years in foster care.
- You won't choose the adoptive family.
- This process doesn't provide lifelong open adoption relationship-building skills or ongoing guidance.
- The adoptive parents will determine how involved you are in your child's life, even if the contact agreement is mediated and called an open adoption.



By planning an open adoption, you can avoid the foster care system.

➤ **In a genuine open adoption with our agency:**

- You are heard, valued and respected.
- You hand-select an adoptive family from our diverse pool, and form a lifelong friendship with them.
- You are a part of their extended family and have an honored role in your child's life.
- You create a legally enforceable agreement for ongoing visits.
- You receive lifelong counseling and relationship guidance from OA&FS.

OA&FS OPEN ADOPTION

➤ **At Open Adoption & Family Services, your voice matters.**

- You have rights in adoption.
- We are a non-profit, our services are free of charge.
- We place infants and children up to the age of three.
- Maybe you've already had a state adoption, are pregnant again, and this time you want an open adoption.
- Or maybe this can be a back-up plan if you need it later.

➤ **Don't give up on having a lifelong relationship with your child.**

- Your child will grow up knowing who you are, and that they are loved by you.



CALL 1-800-772-1115 ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT, TO SPEAK WITH AN OA&FS COUNSELOR.

Open Adoption Experiences: Sharene's Story

"I was having a hard time and the state took my daughters away. When they were put in foster care, I didn't know anything about the foster parents. When I found out I was pregnant again, I went to OA&FS.

This time I had a choice. I chose the best parents for my son. When we met, I knew Brady and Peter were a good fit for my child. I knew they'd cherish him and that he'd grow up to be a good man.

The adoptive parents got to know who I am first, and know that I'm a good person. They didn't judge me. I like spending time with them and building our relationship.

When things went awry in my daughters' foster home, Brady and Peter adopted my girls too and have been wonderful fathers to them."



"In an open adoption, your child is not gone. You still get to see them, to have that relationship, to bond with them. It's a great feeling."