



OPEN ADOPTION & FAMILY SERVICES

PREGNANCY OPTIONS **COUNSELING** AND OPEN ADOPTION RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS.



Inside: Information about
our innovative model of
choice, empowerment and
relationship-building.

Be
treated
with respect,
compassion
and
acceptance.

Freely
explore your
options
without
pressure or
judgment.

Access
unbiased
pregnancy
options
counseling
from qualified
counselors.



Have
access
to info
about all
of your
pregnancy
options.

Whatever
you
decide,
your
choice
will be
honored.



OPEN ADOPTION
& FAMILY
SERVICES
1-800-772-1115
OPENADOPT.ORG



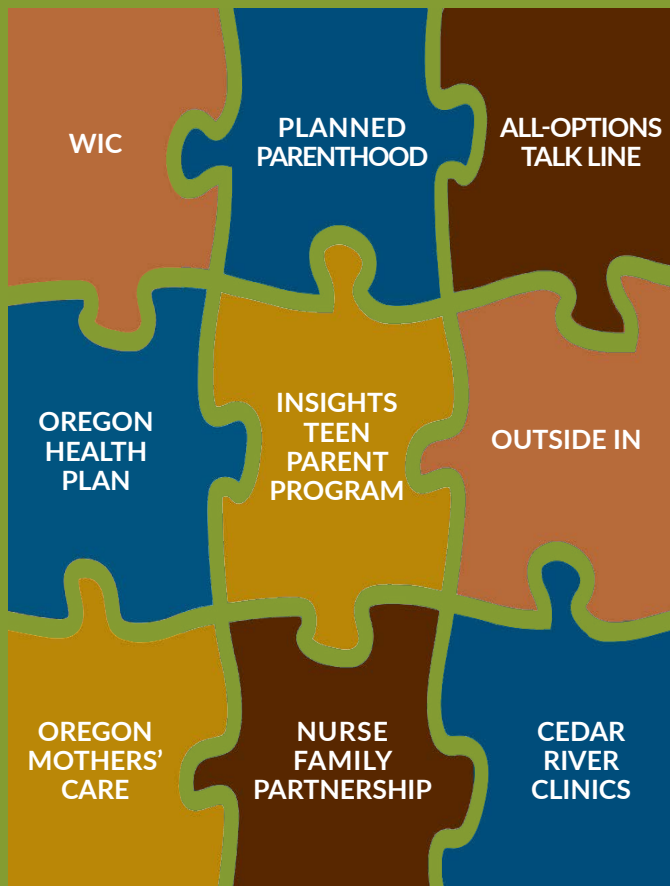
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PREGNANT PERSON CONTACTS OA&FS?



OA&FS is contacted by hundreds of expectant parents each year.

89% choose parenting or abortion.

Our counseling staff offers resources to support their decision.



11% choose open adoption.

Expectant parents receive counseling as they create their own open adoption vision.



Our support continues with ongoing counseling.



ALL-OPTIONS PREGNANCY COUNSELING.



**These prompts can help
your clients explore
their options:
Parenting, abortion
or adoption.**

Conversation starters for options counseling.

- What do you know about each pregnancy option – parenting, abortion, adoption?
- Would it be helpful to receive additional information about your options?
- Before you were pregnant, what were your impressions of each option based on your values/ cultural/religious/spiritual beliefs?
- How do you feel about these options now?
- How will each choice change your current lifestyle and the goals or plans you have for yourself?
- What challenges do you anticipate for each option?
- What are the expectations of your family and community?
- What supports do you need or currently have to address these challenges?
- Are you comfortable sharing what your relationship is like with the other parent? Are they aware of the pregnancy? If so, what do they think?
- What emotional support will you have after making this decision?

*Speaking with an OA&FS counselor
has been invaluable to me. Having an
unbiased person to talk with has been
wonderful. I'm so glad to know your
agency is in this community.*

— Expectant Parent

OA&FS offers a safe space to talk about pregnancy options.

- We're here to empower people with the information they need to make the choice that feels best to them.
- We support them no matter what decision they make, and will treat them with dignity and respect as they consider each of their choices.



ADOPTION-SENSITIVE LANGUAGE AND TERMS.



Use these terms
to help reduce
the stigma and
misconceptions that
surround adoption.

DISEMPOWERING

Giving Your
Child Away

Putting Your Child
Up for Adoption

Real Child

Not the
Real Parents

Keeping the Child

EMPOWERING

Planning an
Adoption for
Your Child

Choosing an
Adoptive Family
for Your Child

Child

Adoptive Parent,
Parent

Deciding to
Parent, Parenting



WHEN PEOPLE FACE SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO PARENTING.



**Expectant parents
have choices.
Their voices
matter.**

**Not all parents facing state intervention
choose to pursue the path of parenting.
They have the right to explore all of their options.**

- They may not feel ready to parent at this time in their life due to challenges related to mental health, substance use, incarceration, living unhoused, intimate partner violence or other struggles.
- They may already have a child who was removed and adopted through the state and want to create their own open adoption this time.
- They may want to choose a path for their child that avoids foster care and state involvement.



**At-risk
expectant
parents can
have a lifelong
relationship
with their
child.**

At OA&FS, we can help.

- We offer free options counseling and resources.
- They make an informed choice.
- They can explore planning a private open adoption.
- We support them no matter what they decide.



CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR PEOPLE ENCOUNTERING STATE INVOLVEMENT.



How do
you feel
about
parenting
at this
time?

What
supports do
you feel you
need to make
your vision of
parenting a
reality?

If the choice
to parent
doesn't feel
right, what
do you know
about private
agency
adoption?



RESOURCES FOR YOUR CLIENTS.



The following pages are fliers you can print and offer to your clients.

These fliers provide important information about adoption as clients consider their choices. Additionally, our open adoption brochure is for clients who want to learn more about planning an adoption through OA&FS. You can [download or order printed versions of these brochures and other materials from our website.](#)



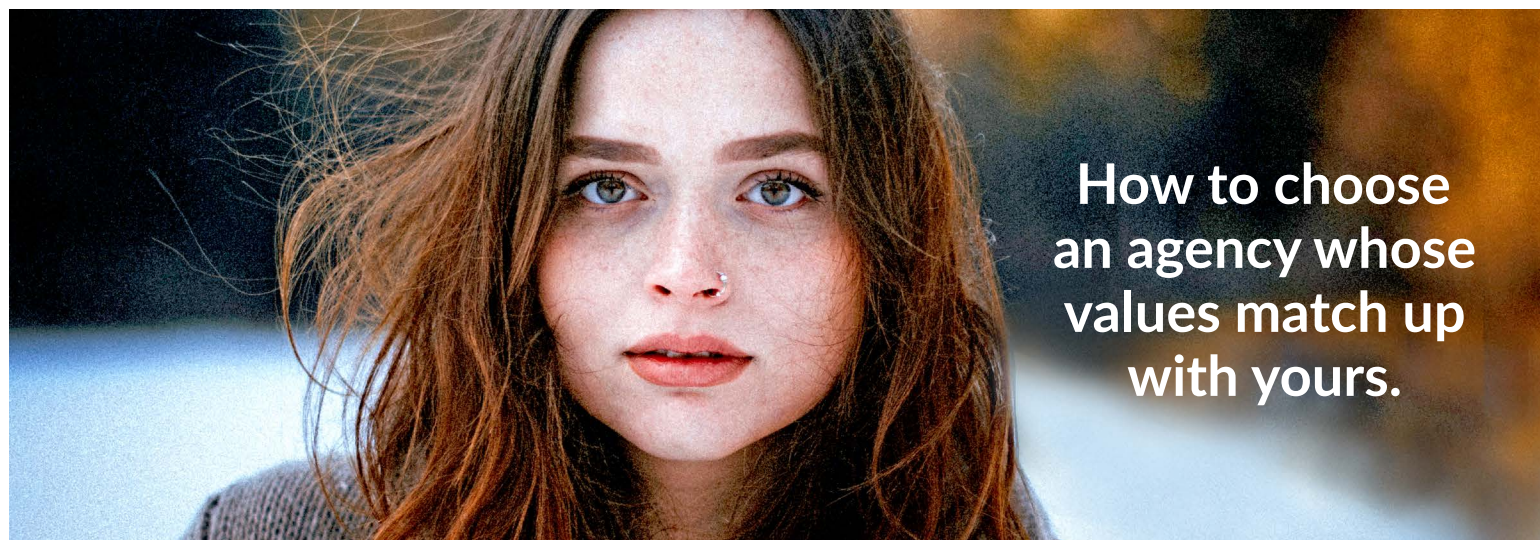
What is Open Adoption? This brochure outlines our open adoption program. Available in English and Spanish.

[Download English Version](#)

[Download Spanish Version](#)



QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN COMPARING SERVICES.



How to choose an agency whose values match up with yours.

“Open adoption” means different things to different organizations.

At OA&FS it means birth parents have a lifelong relationship with their child and the adoptive family. Here are some important questions expectant parents can ask as they compare services offered by adoption agencies, facilitators, and/or attorneys.

	OA&FS	ATTORNEY	OTHER AGENCY		OA&FS	ATTORNEY	OTHER AGENCY		OA&FS	ATTORNEY	OTHER AGENCY
Am I the deciding voice in all the details of my adoption?	✓			Can I read the adoptive parents' homestudies?	✓			Does your program view open adoption as a lifelong ongoing relationship?	✓		
Do I get free counseling and relationship support for the life of my adoption?	✓			Does your pool of families reflect diverse identities, lifestyles and family configurations?	✓			If I've already found an adoptive family, can you work with us?	✓		
Is pregnancy-related financial support available?	✓			Will there be a legally enforceable open adoption agreement that outlines the number of ongoing visits?	✓			How many open adoptions with ongoing visits have you completed?	OVER 1500		
Do the adoptive parents genuinely want a lifelong relationship with me that includes ongoing visits?	✓			What are the average number of visits per year on contact agreements?	3 TO 4			How long have you been providing fully open adoption services?	SINCE 1985		
Does your organization have a large pool of waiting families to choose from?	YES			Does your program view open adoption as an extended family relationship?	✓			Do you have materials in Spanish and access to interpreters?	✓		



PLANNING AN OPEN ADOPTION.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE IMPORTANT IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE.

If you're considering adoption for your child through OA&FS, you'll be empowered and supported by our compassionate and knowledgeable counselors.

While you plan your adoption, we will continue to explore all of your options to ensure you feel comfortable with your decision.

In our program:

- **You're the most qualified person to choose adoptive parents for your child.** We have a large pool of waiting families with a diversity of identities and lifestyles or you can come to us with an adoptive family you've already chosen.
- **OA&FS adoptions are truly open.** Our families genuinely value openness in adoption and maintaining a connection with their child's birth family. You and the adoptive parents create a child-centered relationship and value one another's unique role.
- **You and the adoptive parents create a legally enforceable agreement for ongoing visits.** The average number of visits is three to four per year, and it often grows from there —much like extended family.
- **You'll connect with other birth parents.** We offer retreats, support groups and gatherings within our open adoption community.
- **We'll be there for you.** We provide ongoing support to you free of charge. We have a lifetime commitment to our child-centered adoptions.



Steps to place your child in adoption.

- 1 Options Counseling
- 2 Review Families
- 3 Introduction Meeting
- 4 Adoption Planning
- 5 Consent
- 6 Entrustment Ceremony



IN OPEN ADOPTION EVERYONE MATTERS.



Adoptee Liam (center) with adoptive parents Paul and Tracey, birth mother Haley and birth sibling E.J. (l-r).

My relationship with Paul and Tracey is absolutely amazing. It's like having the best friends you could ask for.



Adoptee Fin with Birth father Garrett.

When my girlfriend found out she was pregnant, she had three choices - parenting, abortion or adoption. But I had two choices: to be involved or not be involved. I chose to be involved in Fin's life and it was the best decision I could have made!



Adoptee Teo with birth mother Sage.

Teo deserved to have a chance at a very safe and loving life, and open adoption was absolutely the best choice, especially because we would be able to know each other.



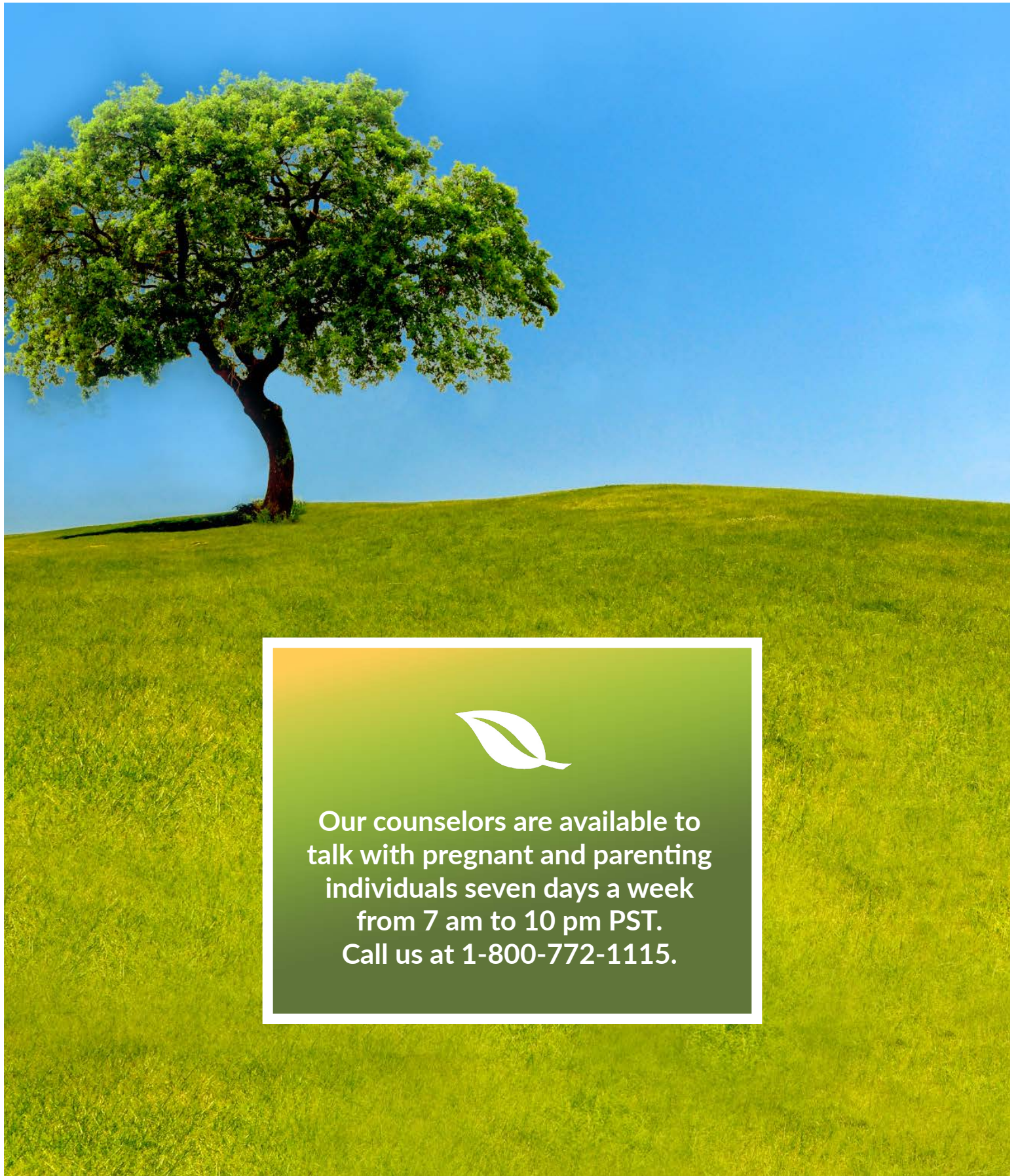
Birth mother Taylor with her birth son.

Every year we grow closer as a family, and I am forever indebted to the adoptive parents for the constant love and support they have provided.



Adoptee Preston with adoptive parents Josh and Matt.

Every time we visit with birth parents Misty and Bryan we see that they care about Preston very much, and light up when they see him. They did this from a place of love themselves, and that makes me feel good that they made the best choice for them.



Our counselors are available to
talk with pregnant and parenting
individuals seven days a week
from 7 am to 10 pm PST.
Call us at 1-800-772-1115.



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