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*For more information*

*Or to schedule an appointment with a social worker*

Please Contact Us Anytime - 24/7 Birthparent Counseling and Support

Call our birthparent helpline at 1-800-927-7222

Text our pregnancy support number at 614-398-ADOP (2367)

Email your Questions to [info@adoptioncircle.org](mailto:info@adoptioncircle.org)

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Dear Birthparent,

We know you and every birthparent who calls us has searched their heart to make the right decision for their baby. Adoption is a permanent life-long decision that requires courage, responsibility, unselfishness and love of yourself and your child.

Adoption Circle is an Ohio based, state-licensed, non-profit adoption agency that believes all parents want to make decisions that are in best interest of their children. When the choice is adoption, Adoption Circle's caring and compassionate staff will personally work with you to design your adoption plan.

Working together builds trust and comfort, the foundation for a positive adoption experience. We are proud that our circle stands as a symbol of the life-long relationship between adoptive and birth families, children and adoption professionals. Adoption Circle pledges its support to you, we want you to be fully informed, this decision is yours to make.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meredith C. Blumenthal".

Meredith C. Blumenthal

Executive Director

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**Birthparent Rights.** In order to make an informed decision about you and your child's future, it is helpful to be aware of your rights, as a Birthparent. Adoption Circle respects the values and rights of every Birthmother.

### **Your Rights as a Birthmother:**

- Right to dignity and respect.
- Right to make your decision at your own pace at your own time.
- Right to choose stable, secure and loving parent(s) for your baby and receive information about them.
- Right to choose what type of adoption you want.
- Right to receive counseling before, during and after the placement.
- Right to financial, medical and living assistance according to State laws.
- Right to retain legal counsel.
- Right to confidentiality.
- Right to maintain contact with the agency and adoptive parents over the years according to State laws.

**We are here to help.** Adoption Circle is here to help you examine your options so that you make the best choice for you and your baby.

### **Adoption Circle Provides the Following Services to You, the Birthparent:**

- You and the family select each other through Adoption Circle.
- Adoption Circle will make every effort to meet your requests for openness in your adoption.
- No foster care is required with Adoption Circle. Adoption Circle is available to accept custody and place the child with the adoptive family 72 plus hours after birth. In those cases, no foster care is required. However, foster care is available if you need additional time to consider your decision.
- All medical expenses for you and your baby which are not covered by health insurance will be paid by the adoptive parents after placement.
- Adoption Circle can assist you in locating a physician who will provide you and your baby with quality medical care. Adoption circle can also arrange transportation to prenatal appointments.
- Generally, no court appearance is required.
- Adoption Circle can arrange for you to speak with an attorney regarding your legal rights in an adoption. If you do not have an attorney, Adoption Circle will provide or offer appropriate referrals.
- All legal fees incurred for the adoption will be paid by the adoptive parents.
- Counseling is very important when making an adoption plan. Although it is not required, Adoption Circle encourages counseling throughout the decision-making process. Counseling is available through Adoption Circle's state-licensed, professional social workers.
- Adoption Circle will come to you, no travel is required. Adoption Circle provides services to birthparents throughout Ohio.
- Maternity clothing is available upon your request.
- Adoption Circle can assist you in securing housing during your pregnancy. Ohio Law allows for living expenses and Adoption Circle's social workers can discuss this with you meet.

**Make the Decision that is Right for You.** Adoption should be a parenting decision that birthparents make for their children after considering all of their options, free of pressure from all potential sources. Adoption Circle offers 24/7 support for expectant mothers and will advise them of all of their options and answer any of their questions.

### **Birthparent Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### *1. What type of adoption plan is available for me?*

Adoption Circle works with you as you decide what type of adoption is best for you and your baby. You may choose:

**Open Adoption:** Includes the birthparents and adoptive parents meeting one another, sharing full identifying information, and having access to ongoing contact over the years.

**Openness in Adoption or Semi-Open Adoption:** Refers to various forms of communication between birthparents and adoptive parents, such as exchanging letters and pictures, meeting on the first name only basis, meeting once but not engaging in ongoing contact.

**Closed Adoption:** When the birthparents request that the agency choose an adoptive family for their baby, or they choose the family from agency profiles, but do not meet them. No information, except social/ medical (which Ohio law requires), is shared with the adoptive family.

Adoption Circle believes that the birthparent and adoptive parents should design their own adoption plan. Therefore, our agency facilitates individual adoption plans for each and every birthparent.

#### *2. How does a family become approved to adopt?*

All adoptive families that are approved to adopt through Adoption Circle have met and exceeded all of the ridged requirements mandated under Ohio law.

An Adoption Circle social worker meets with the family in their home to assess their ability/potential to become adoptive parents. References, criminal record checks, financial statements and the adoptive parents home itself are all reviewed by the agency worker as part of the approval/Homestudy process.

Adoption Circle requires that all prospective adoptive parents be certified in an infant CPR and complete a childcare class. All families must complete an extensive education process that includes how to talk to your child about adoption and relationship building with birthparents.

3. *Will there be a family for my baby?*

Adoption Circle believes that all children are wanted and has approved families ready to adopt children of all races and medical backgrounds.

4. *Will my baby have to go to foster care?*

No. Your baby can go home from the hospital with the parents you have selected. Foster care is available if you need additional time to consider your decision.

5. *How do I select the adoptive family?*

Birthparents who work with Adoption Circle choose how they select an adoptive family.

Some birthparents choose to review profiles written by the prospective adoptive parents. While others will request that the agency select an adoptive family. If you choose to read profiles you will have the opportunity to hear about different adoptive families and their lives. The profiles describe a family's strengths, weaknesses, occupations, education, hobbies, leisure activities, courtship, marriage, family life, religion, home, neighborhood, and infertility issues.

Getting to know the families through their profiles enables you to select a family that you believe will meet the needs of your child. You also are able to select the religion and where your child will be raised (in Ohio or another state). You have the opportunity to meet with them or talk with them over the telephone if you would like.

**\*\*To view our current Waiting Families, go to link below to view profiles and pictures:**

<http://www.adoptioncircle.org/birthparents/adoptive-families/>

6. *How will my child be able to find me later in life if he/she desires?*

One form you will complete with your social worker allows you to authorize or prohibit the release of identifying information to your child when they are an adult. You can write a letter to your child and share all the identifying information. Or you may choose to share this identifying information with the adoptive family during your adoption planning. At Adoption Circle we encourage all of our adoptive families and birthparents to keep us informed of their current address and telephone number so that we can assist in families whenever possible.

7. *What information, if any, is needed by the birthfather?*

Although an adoption can take place without the birthfather's involvement, it is in the best interest of all parties for him to participate. Adoption Circle believes it is important, if at all possible, for the birth father to be actively involved, as early as possible, in the adoption process. This is only possible if they can provide the agency with the information to contact the birthfather. Children deserve a complete medical history and a legally sound adoption. A court hearing may be scheduled to legally terminate his parental rights.

8. *May I write the adoptive parents or my child a letter explaining to the reasons for making an adoption plan, and will I have the assurance that they will receive and read it?*

Absolutely!! As a matter of fact Adoption Circle strongly encourages the birthparents to write these letters. Most adoptive parents ask to have these for the children. Adoption Circle can provide birth parents with journals to write their letters. If you choose you may give the letter or journal to the adoptive family or ask Adoption Circle to do so.

9. *Are there any costs for me, the Birthparent, if I choose an adoption plan with Adoption Circle?*

No. Your legal, medical and counseling expenses that are a part of the adoption process are paid by the adoptive parents. Adoption Circle also may assist you with maternity clothes, housing, or other pregnancy and adoption expenses mandated under Ohio law.

10. *What kind of contact will I have with my child after the adoption?*

The contact that you have will depend on the adoption plan that you design with the adoptive family. Adoption Circle has a policy that adoptive parents are to send pictures and letters for the birthparents, once a month for the first year. The agency encourages annual update pictures and letters after the first year as agreed upon by both birth and adoptive parents.

11. *Will I have to go to court?*

No. If the child is under 6 months of age and the birthparent is working with Adoption Circle it is not usually necessary to appear in court to relinquish parental rights.

12. *Will my family and friends be able to visit with my baby in the hospital?*

Yes!! Absolutely!! Adoption Circle encourages birthparents, their families and friends to see the baby and to have as much contact as desired with your child prior to placement. We believe it is an important time for you and the baby. However, if you do not wish to see the baby while in the hospital, that request will be respected. It is important to remember that you, the Birthparent, is in charge of making decisions about you and your baby. Adoption Circle encourages birthparents to verbalize all their special requests regarding the adoption. We make every effort to assist you in completing the plan as you design it.

**The Path to Adoption.** We understand that making an adoption plan is a difficult decision. There is no fee or obligation for calling us or making an appointment with a counselor. Adoption Circle social workers are here to offer support and help you decide what is best for you and your child. To better understand the adoption process and what to expect please review the steps below.

### Stepping Stones to Adoption:

- Contact Adoption Circle to speak with a social worker who will answer your questions.
  - Contact Agency by PHONE - 24/7 Birthparent Helpline: **(800)-927-7222**
  - Contact Agency by TEXT– 24/7 Support: **(614)-398-ADOP (2367)**
  - Contact Agency by EMAIL: [info@adoptioncircle.org](mailto:info@adoptioncircle.org)
  - Contact Agency ONLINE: <http://adoptioncircle.org/contact-us/>
- Schedule an appointment to have a social worker come to meet with you to help you begin to look at your options and begin to design your adoption plan for your baby.
- Select the prospective adoptive family that you believe would be the best parents for your baby. All the families you find on our website and in the letter we send out have been thoroughly screened, educated and approved, prior to placement.
  - Browse our Waiting Families online page to view family profiles: <http://www.adoptioncircle.org/birthparents/adoptive-families/>
  - Or call (800) 927-7222 to have profiles mailed to a home address.
- You decide if you would like to meet or talk with the prospective adoptive parents that you selected.
- You continue to have support from the staff and your social worker with Adoption Circle.
- The baby is born. This is your time to decide how you would like to proceed. You can request to have the prospective adoptive parents to be with you and the baby during labor and delivery or during your hospital stay.
- Any time after 72 hours birth you can decide to complete your adoption plan. Your social worker will assist you in arranging how you want to sign the adoption paperwork. You decide where you would like to meet. You do not have to appear in court.
- After the paperwork is signed the baby can be placed with the parents that you selected. Your baby does not need to go to foster care.
- After placement you and the adoptive parents can decide to have openness in your relationship.

**Pregnancy Support and Parenting Resources:** Adoption Circle offers pregnancy support and education for birthparents who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. Deciding what is best for your child is not an easy task. Adoption Circle’s caring staff wants to make sure you have plenty of time to explore your options. Whether you decide to move forward with an adoption plan or considering parenting, we hope the resources listed on our website are helpful for you and your baby. If you have any other questions about local resources in your area, please do not hesitate to contact Adoption Circle at (800)-927-7222.

**Online Resources:** <http://www.adoptioncircle.org/birthparents/pregnancy-support-in-ohio/>

**Testimonials:** Watch birthparents share their story and experience working with Adoption Circle in the video testimonials that can be found on our website:

<http://www.adoptioncircle.org/birthparents/success-stories/>

*“I want you to know meeting you has had an impact on my life directly; inasmuch as I now have the knowledge and understanding that adoptions give life as much as birth itself. Without people like you, many babies might not have their first breath. I am really grateful for agencies such as Adoption Circle.”*

**-Birthmother, Central Ohio**

*“How can I even thank you for all you have done for us! Knowing that our baby has been placed in a wonderful home means the world to us. Everyone at Adoption Circle has been so helpful. God bless you.”*

**-Birthmother, Cleveland**

*“It was great to see you again! Thanks for holding the support group meetings. You are very patient and understanding. You do a great job as a social worker and friend.”*

**-Birthmother, Cleveland**

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