

PLACEMENT

If you decide to move forward with your adoption plan after your child is born, you can choose for your baby to go home directly from the hospital with the adoptive parents.

- Illinois law requires birth mothers to wait at least 72 hours before consenting to their child's adoption.
- If you decide to relinquish your parental rights and place your child for adoption, usually you will not need to go to court.
- LCFS workers will meet with both the birth mother and father wherever they are most comfortable to complete the paperwork.
- After you place your child for adoption, your LCFS worker will continue to be available to you for follow-up support and referral to additional resources as needed

NEED HELP?

If you're pregnant and have questions about adoption, visit www.LCFS.org or email lcfs_info@lcfs.org.



WHO WE ARE

LCFS is a leading provider of a variety of child welfare services in Illinois, dedicated to serving people of all faiths, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender expressions and gender-identifications.

LCFS MISSION

To nurture and strengthen children and families in need.

LCFS VISION

A world where all of God's children have the opportunity for safe, healthy and meaningful lives.



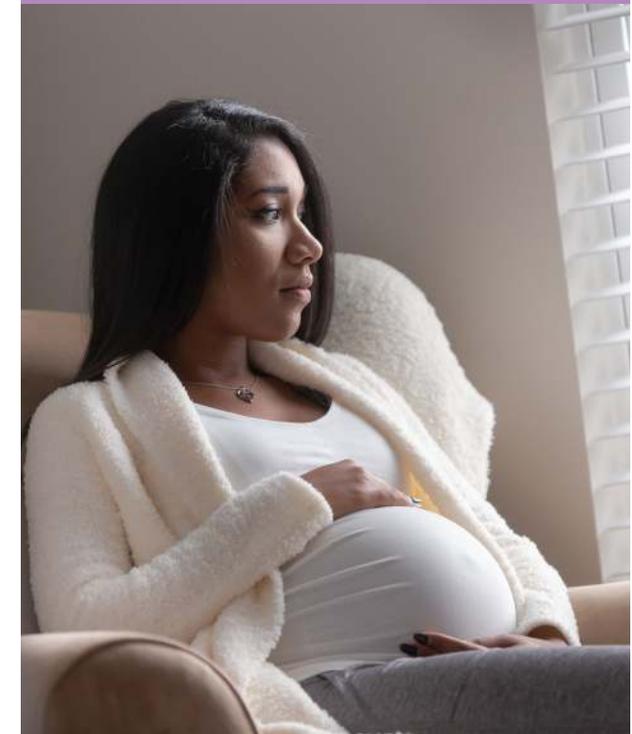
Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
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BIRTH PARENT SERVICES

ADOPTION IS A POSITIVE AND BRAVE CHOICE



BIRTH PARENT SERVICES

Are you pregnant and unsure what you want to do? An unexpected pregnancy can cause major changes in your life. LCFS is here to provide expectant mothers and fathers with compassionate, respectful and confidential assistance as you consider your child's future as well as your own. Choosing to place a child for adoption is a difficult and selfless decision.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHOICES

Discussing an adoption plan does not mean you have made your decision. An LCFS social worker will meet with you privately and confidentially to help you sort out feelings, examine your options and reach an informed, positive decision concerning your baby's future.

- There are no fees to you for these services.
- No one at LCFS will pressure you as you examine your choices.
- Your worker will never talk to others about you without your permission.
- If you are a minor, you do not need parental permission to place a child for adoption.
- Control of the decision-making process is always in your hands, but you can include others in the process.
- If you choose to parent your baby, referrals to resources are available.

SELECTING ADOPTIVE PARENTS

If you choose to explore an adoption plan for your child, LCFS will work with you toward placement with individuals you've already chosen or assist you in selecting prospective adoptive parents by providing you with profiles of individuals who have completed an in-depth assessment process. You choose who you would want to adopt your child.

You can also decide to meet the family you select and be in contact with them throughout the process. LCFS encourages contact between the birth family and the adoptive family for the benefit of everyone. Your worker can explain all of your options, which range from a confidential adoption to an open adoption.

Even if you have an adoption plan in place, you have the right to change your mind at any time during the process.

"I placed my son with a wonderful family. I couldn't have done it without the support and education provided by LCFS."

-Monica, an LCFS Birth Mom

INTERSTATE ADOPTION

LCFS can assist you in completing an interstate adoption.

- If you do not live in Illinois, our team can help you find the right Illinois adoptive family for your baby and give you referrals for a resource in your state to assist you with your adoption plan.
- If you live in Illinois, but have selected a family from outside of the state, LCFS can assist you with birth parent services and will honor the existing arrangements already in place.

