

Frequently Asked Questions of Couples Thinking About Adoption

Catholic Services of Macomb has provided adoption services for over fifty years, and has placed hundreds of children into loving families. Adoption can be a wonderful way to begin or add to your family if you are unable to have a biological child. Adoption can also be an answer for a woman who has found herself in an unplanned pregnancy and does not feel ready to parent, but wants her child to have a future with a loving family.

What is adoption?

Adoption is a legal process in which a child is placed with adoptive parents who raise the child as a member of their own family. There are many forms of adoption including infant domestic adoption, international adoption and special needs adoption.

What type of adoptions does Catholic Services provide?

Catholic Services of Macomb provides domestic (U.S.), infant adoptions.

How do we apply to adopt an infant through Catholic Services of Macomb?

You may click on the Contact Us button on this website or call Catholic Services of Macomb at 586.416.2300 to request information. You will also be invited to attend a group or personal orientation to the adoption process. If you decide to pursue adoption through CSM, you will be asked to complete an application and screening packet, and meet with an Adoption Specialist.

What happens after we complete the application?

After submitting your application, the next step is to complete the home study process. The home study involves a series of interviews and meetings with the Adoption Specialist, as well as completion of an adoption evaluation and home visit. You will also be asked to complete additional paperwork that is required by the State of Michigan. Couples who successfully complete all requirements of the home study process, provide necessary documentation, meet all State and agency requirements, and have paid the non-refundable Home Study and other fees, may be approved as potential adoptive families.

What happens after we are approved as an adoptive family?

Upon approval, the Adoption Specialist will assist you in developing your personal profile and life book that will be viewed by birth parents who are making an adoption plan. The Pregnancy Counselor shares the profiles of waiting couples with birth parents. Some birth parents choose a couple based on the profile, while others want to look at life books before they make a decision. Some birth parents and waiting couples find one another through personal contact or through outreach efforts of the waiting couples. There are some circumstances in which a birth mother contacts Catholic Services of Macomb from the hospital after giving birth to her baby. In this case, CSM places the baby with an approved foster care family, while the birth parent(s) choose an adoptive couple.

What happens after a birth parent chooses us?

You will receive a call from your Adoption Specialist, who will set a time to meet with you to discuss the various levels of the open adoption process.

What is open adoption?

It sometimes helps to think of open adoption as a continuum or different levels of openness, based on the comfort level of the adoptive couple and the preferences of the birth parent(s). For example, for some people, an open adoption is the exchange of cards or letters between the birth parent and adoptive couple, facilitated by the Adoption Specialist. For others, it might be a phone call, or a face-to-face meeting before or after the baby is born. Meeting with the Adoption Specialist will assist you in understanding both the various levels and boundaries of the open adoption process, and choosing what level of openness is most comfortable for you.

Will we have contact with the birth parent(s) after adoption?

If you and the birth parent(s) agree to have contact, yes. The level of contact you will have, or the "openness" of the adoption, is a decision to be made by you and the birth parent(s). The degree of openness is discussed at the time of the initial meeting, and an agreement reached about the level of contact and boundaries.

When will a baby be placed with us?

Usually, a baby will be placed in your home when the baby is discharged from the hospital after birth. There are times when a baby will be placed in a temporary foster home before being placed with an adoptive family. For example, when the birth parent has not had time to choose a couple, or if the birth parent is unsure of her plan for adoption at the time of the birth.

Can CSM assist us in our adoption plan if we already know someone who wants us to adopt their baby?

Yes. Catholic Services of Macomb assists many families who have an "identified" adoption, meaning that they already know and have agreed upon adoption with a birth parent. State law requires that a home study be completed for any family that is adopting, regardless of whether or not the family already knows the birth parent. You will be asked to go through the application and home study processes as other couples do; however, your adoption will be somewhat different as you are already matched with a birth parent. It is best to contact Catholic Services of Macomb as soon as possible after you choose adoption, as it does take time to complete the home study process.

Will CSM continue to support us after we bring our baby home?

Your CSM Adoption Specialist will provide support for several months after you welcome the baby into your home. The Adoption Specialist will make follow up calls, home visits, and provide other post-placement services and referrals as needed.

You will also have the opportunity to participate in monthly support group meetings for adoptive parents, through the Post Adoption Support Services program.

For additional information, click on [Contact Us](#) or call 1.586.416.2300

Information for Birth Parents Thinking About Adoption

Being faced with unexpected pregnancy can be very scary. You may be confused, upset, embarrassed and feel overwhelmed by the decisions you have to make.

Many women in an unplanned pregnancy are not aware of the choices they have, or do not consider the outcomes of their decisions.

Adoption is one of the choices that you have. It is not an easy choice, but it is a loving choice for your baby when you are not able or ready to parent at this time in your life.

Adoption is much different then it was in the past. You can choose the family for your child and decide on how open you want the relationship to be with your child and the adoptive family. You can have the opportunity to meet the adoptive family, see your child and/or to have pictures and letters shared between you, your child, and the adoptive family.

There are many families who are not able to have children for many different reasons, but very much want to be parents and provide a child with love, guidance, and a stable, secure future. For these couples, their dreams of being parents and raising a child become reality when a young woman in an unplanned pregnancy who values the life and future of her child chooses adoption.

You have more choices and support than you might think.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I be pressured to place my baby for adoption?

You will not be pressured in any way to make any decisions about you or your baby. Catholic Services of Macomb's Pregnancy Counselor will work with you and provide counseling and referrals so that you will have the information you need to make the best decisions for you and your baby.

When do I have to decide?

Birth parents can choose adoption at any point during pregnancy and after the baby is born. Some birth mothers decide early in their pregnancy while others decide after the birth of their baby. Many birth parents have found that making a commitment to adoption before the birth makes it easier to choose an adoptive couple and find a home for their baby.

Will I be able to choose the couple who will parent my baby?

Yes. There are many couples who want to raise and love a child. Catholic Services of Macomb has a number of approved couples with diverse backgrounds, stories and ages. Some already have children, while others are waiting for their first child. There are enough waiting couples for you to be able to find the one with whom you will feel the most comfortable.

Will I be able to meet the couple and have contact with my baby after adoption?

You have the choice of whether or not you want to meet the couple, and what level of openness you want to have with the couple and your baby after the adoption. You will have the opportunity to meet the couple after you have chosen them, if you so choose. Usually, the couple and the birth parent(s) agree on the level of openness when they meet at the Catholic Services of Macomb.

Will I receive counseling and other services through the Catholic Services of Macomb?

Yes, a Pregnancy Counselor will help you work through your decision as well as the feelings and emotions that result in the decisions you are making. The Pregnancy Counselor can also assist you in obtaining prenatal care, housing, continuing education, financial assistance, and referrals to other community resources as needed. The Pregnancy Counselor will also guide you through the legal process of adoption and help you complete required paperwork.

What happens when I give birth to my baby?

Your Pregnancy Counselor will come to the hospital to see you. Prior to giving birth, you and your Pregnancy Counselor will make a hospital care plan which will include notifying the hospital of your wishes and plans for adoption. You determine what will happen at the hospital. Some birth parents want the couple involved in the delivery while others don't want the couple at the hospital until the baby is ready to be discharged. Some birth parents want to spend time with the baby at the hospital, while others choose not to see the baby after birth. The decision is yours to make, and your Pregnancy Counselor can help you decide what you want to do. When the baby is ready for discharge and if your plan is adoption, the adoptive couple will then be able to take the baby home.

Will I have to go to court?

Yes, you will have to go to court to release your baby for adoption.

What about my baby's father?

There are different requirements for birth fathers depending upon circumstances. Catholic Services of Macomb's Pregnancy Counselor can provide you with information regarding birth fathers and answer any questions you have.

Will I be able to receive services from Catholic Services of Macomb after the adoption of my baby?

Yes. Your Pregnancy Counselor will continue to provide counseling and other services to you after the adoption of your baby, if you choose. You probably have many more questions that we have presented here. If you would like to learn more about adoption or would like to talk to a Pregnancy Counselor, please contact Catholic Services of Macomb toll free any time at 1-888-4-Baby-Due.

**For additional information, click on Contact Us,
or call 1.586.416.2300**