

*To speak with an  
Adoptions From The Heart  
adoption counselor call...*

**(800) 355-5500**

*Counselors are available  
24 hours a day*



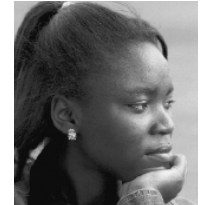
**Adoptions From The Heart®**

Adoptions From The Heart is a private, non-profit,  
non-sectarian agency licensed in Pennsylvania,  
New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia,  
Connecticut & New York

***Delaware Office:***  
**Adoptions From The Heart**  
**18-A Trolley Square**  
**Wilmington, DE 19806**  
**(302) 658-8883**



*Considering  
adoption?*



# **Know Your Rights**

If you are thinking  
about placing your  
child for adoption,  
there are some  
things you should  
know...

 **Adoptions From The Heart®**

**[www.afth.org](http://www.afth.org)**  
**[adoption@afth.org](mailto:adoption@afth.org)**

# You should know...

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## *Delaware Adoption Law states that:*

**1** You, as the birth mother, will have to sign a consent to terminate your parental rights and place the child for adoption. You cannot sign this consent until the baby has been born, and only certain people are permitted to take consents by Delaware Law. If the birth father is available, he too will have to give written consent. If you are married or were married during the year before your baby is born, your husband will be asked to give his consent whether or not he is the father of your baby.

**2** Once you give your consent to an adoption, you can change your mind, but it must be done in writing within 14 days from the date you signed your consent, and it must be delivered to the agency office. Whatever your decision, about two to three months after the birth of your baby, there will be a hearing at the courthouse. You will receive a letter giving you the date and time of the hearing, which you may or may not have to attend. \* You can sign a written statement that you do not want to know about the hearing date when you sign your consent to terminate your parental rights and place the child up for adoption.

\* If you are under the age of 18, one of your parents will be notified of the court hearing. If the birth father is known, the law requires that he be notified of the hearing. If he is not known, you will be asked to sign a legal paper saying why he is unknown and may have to attend a court hearing to explain why.

## *Other important information*

- ♥ You cannot accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.
- ♥ Adopting parents living in Delaware can pay for housing expenses, food, clothing, and legal and medical expenses. These payments are made into an escrow account and are never to be paid directly to a birth parent.
- ♥ If these expenses are paid by adopting parents, this does not mean that you must place your baby to the adopting parents. If you change your mind, you do not have to repay them unless you have agreed to do so.
- ♥ You have the right to have counseling about whether or not to choose adoption for your baby. This counseling must be provided, at no cost to you, by an agency or counsel.
- ♥ Adoptions are legal in Delaware when done through an agency, unless a relative is an adopting parent.

## *In addition...*

### **You have the right:**

- ♥ To have counseling to help you with your decision.
- ♥ To have counseling even after your rights have been terminated.
- ♥ To select and meet the adoptive family.
- ♥ To ask to get letters and pictures of your child after placement.
- ♥ To get help from the hospital social worker:
  - about your decision
  - if someone is bothering or pressuring you
  - for a list of adoption agencies in your area.

*If you need more information after reading this brochure, ask to speak to a hospital or clinic social worker, or call Adoptions From The Heart*

*This brochure was prepared by*