

*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 is a private, non-profit,  
non-sectarian agency licensed in Pennsylvania,  
New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia,  
Connecticut & New York

## ***Pennsylvania Offices:***

### **Philadelphia Office**

Adoptions From The Heart  
30-31 Hampstead Circle  
Wynnewood, PA 19096  
(610) 642-7200

### **Allentown Office**

Adoptions From The Heart  
2212 Union Blvd.  
Allentown, PA 18109  
(610) 432-2384

### **Central PA Office**

Adoptions From The Heart  
1525 Oregon Pike, Ste. 402  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
(717) 399-7766  
(717) 232-1787

### **Pittsburgh Office**

Adoptions From The Heart  
1225 South Main Street, Suite 207  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
(724) 853-6533

AFTH Adoption Counselors  
are also available to work with  
families anywhere in PA.

 **Adoptions From The Heart®**

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

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

BP-81-AG



*Considering  
adoption?*



# **Know Your Rights**

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

# You should know...

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## *Pennsylvania Adoption Law states that:*

**1** You, as the birth mother, will have to sign a consent to the adoption. You cannot sign this consent until the baby is three days old. 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 30 days from the date you signed your consent, and it must be delivered to the agency office (or to the attorney handling the adoption, or to the Clerk of Orphans' Court in the County of termination). 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. \*

\* 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 Pennsylvania cannot pay for housing expenses for a birth parent, but can pay for legal and medical expenses.
- ♥ If the legal fees or medical 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 counselor on the court's approved list. You can get this list at the hospital where you are having your baby.
- ♥ Adoptions are legal in Pennsylvania when done through an agency, or when done privately with an attorney. Agencies, however, provide free counseling as part of their services.

## *In addition...*

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

- ♥ To have a binding legal agreement with the adoptive parents about future contact after your baby is adopted.
- ♥ 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 and counselors 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*

 **Adoptions From The Heart®**