

*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

Virginia Office:

Adoptions From The Heart
1407 Stephanie Way
Suite H
Chesapeake, VA 23320
(757) 361-0008
(804) 218-2569

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



*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
adoption@adoptionsfromtheheart.org

BP-81-VA 4-2010

You should know...

Virginia Adoption Law states that:

1 You, as the birthmother, will have to sign an entrustment placing your child for adoption. You cannot sign this entrustment until the baby is born. If the birthfather is available, he, too, may sign an entrustment. If you are married or were married during the year before your baby is born, your husband is considered the legal father and his rights will also need to be addressed.

2 Once you sign the entrustment to place your child, you can change your mind within 10 days from birth or 7 days from signing, whichever date occurs later. You must notify our office in writing by the end of business on the last day.

Other important information

- You cannot accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.
- Adopting parents living in Virginia cannot pay for housing or other living expenses unless you cannot work because of the pregnancy and have a written notice from your doctor. Adopting parents can pay for legal and medical expenses.
- If the legal or medical fees are paid for by adopting parents, this does not mean that you must place your baby with the adopting parents or are required to repay them.
- You have the right to have counseling about whether or not to choose adoption. This counseling must be provided at no cost to you by an agency or social worker.
- Adoptions are legal in Virginia 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 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