

## You Have the Right To...

- You have the right to change your mind about your adoption plan at any point before the baby is born.
- After the baby is born and before you have signed legal consent or paperwork for the adoption, you have the right to be informed about the law and your ability to change your mind and time frame to revoke your consent to the adoption.

## Your Additional Rights...

- A binding legal agreement about future contact with the adoptive parents after your baby is adopted.
- Free counseling to help with your decision.
- Continued counseling even after your rights have been terminated.
- Select and meet the adoptive family.
- Place your baby directly from the hospital with a family. Foster care is not required.
- Seek an open adoption including picture and letter updates as well as visits.
- Help from the hospital social worker:
  - about your decision
  - if you are feeling pressured

## Contact Information

**Allentown**  
610.432.2384

**Central PA**  
717.399.7766

**Philadelphia**  
610.642.7200

**Pittsburgh**  
724.853.6533

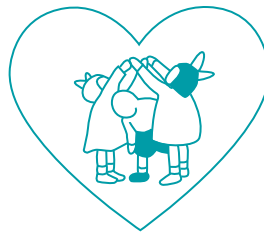
*Speak with a counselor in confidence*

**24 hours a day**

**800-355-5500**

TEXT 610-787-2453

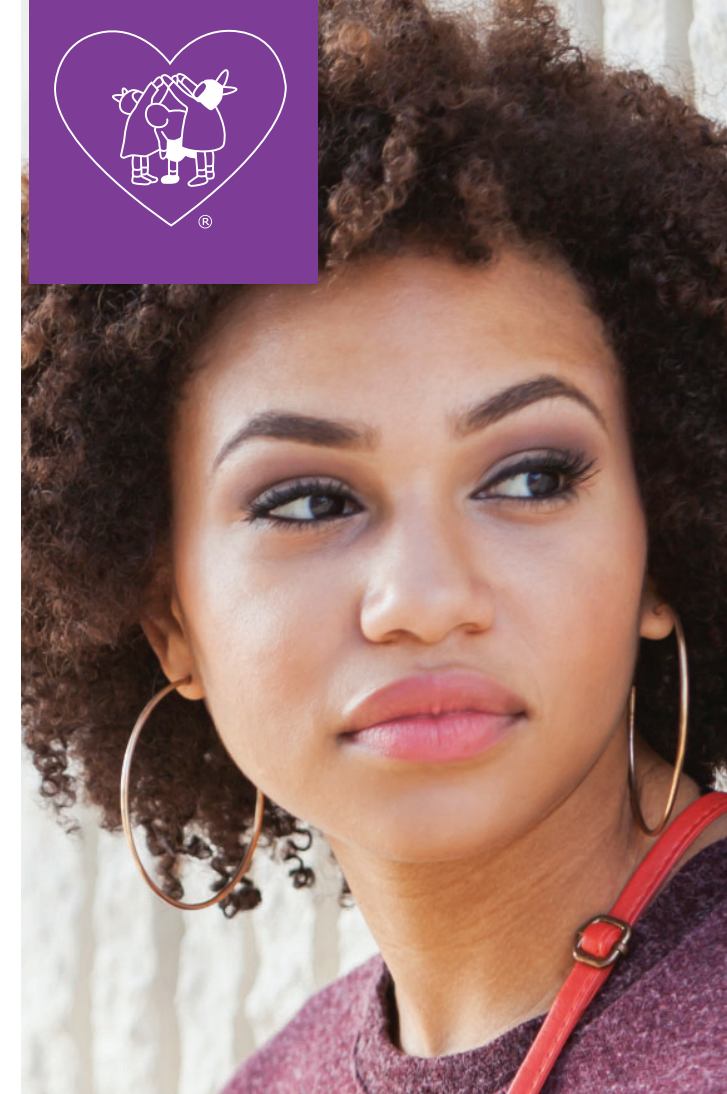
**[afth.org/pregnant](http://afth.org/pregnant)**



**Adoptions From The Heart®**

**AFTH is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian agency licensed in PA, NJ, DE, VA, CT and NY.**

*AFTH supports gender identity inclusivity and respects each individual's identity and pronouns. Since adoption is a legal process and some states haven't caught up to gender neutral pronouns some of our material use cis gender pronouns. Please know that we support you and do not use this language based on our own values but on legal paperwork we will need to use your legal name and gender pronoun.*



**Considering Adoption?  
Know Your Rights**



**Adoptions From The Heart®**

## You Should Know

### *Pennsylvania Adoption Law States:*

**1** In order to place your child for adoption you are required to sign consent paperwork. The consent cannot be signed until at least three days after birth.

If the birth father is available, he will also be required to sign consent paperwork. The law allows him to sign before or after birth.

If you are or were married during the year prior to birth, your spouse will be required to sign consent paperwork whether or not they are the parent of your baby.

**2** After you have signed the consent paperwork, **the law allows you to change your mind** about adoption and parent your baby. It must be done in writing **within 30 days** from the day you signed your consent. It must be delivered to the agency office, attorney handling the adoption or the Clerk of Orphans' Court in the County of termination.

## Other Important Information

- PA law allows you to enter into a **legally binding agreement** regarding future contact with the adoptive parents.
- You ***cannot*** accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.
- Adopting parents living in PA **cannot pay for living expenses** for an expecting parent, but can pay for legal and medical expenses.
- Even if legal fees and medical expenses are paid by adopting parent, **you are under no obligation to place your baby or repay the family.**
- 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.**
- Adoptions are legal in PA when done through an agency, or privately through an attorney. However, **agencies, unlike attorneys, provide free counseling before and after placement.**

**3** If you continue with adoption, there will be a court hearing to terminate your parental rights about 3-4 months after the birth of your baby.

The court requires that you receive notice of the hearing, either in-person or through the mail, at least ten days before the hearing.

For birth parents under the age of 18, state law may require some involvement by a parent or guardian. Please know that we will work with you to develop an adoption plan that is most comfortable for you.

Typically, you will not be required to attend the hearing however there are some situations which would require your presence. Your social worker will be at the hearing.

This brochure was prepared for you by

 Adoptions From The Heart®

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

