



Adoptions at the Hospital

Tips to help hospital staff and professionals navigate this sensitive and emotional time.



Communication is Key

There are two sets of parents in an adoptive situation, so ensure that appropriate information is shared with each.

Time permitting, you will be sent a birth plan outlining hospital expectations. As you know, birth plans can change, just make sure everyone is aware of the changes.



Sensitive Language

Congratulatory wishes for birth parents who have chosen adoption are not always welcomed or appropriate. The words we choose have an emotional impact on those we serve.

Have questions about positive & appropriate adoption language? Ask us! We would love to share with you.



Openness in Adoption is the Norm

It is important to respect the relationship building taking place between the birth and adoptive parents.

Closed adoptions are sometimes requested. Take extra care and caution to ensure identifying information is not shared in these situations.



Birth Parents are the Legal Parents

Birth parents retain the rights to make decisions about care until placement paperwork is signed. Rather than assuming what their wishes may be, just ask.

The adoptive parents will likely experience a time of legal risk in which the child comes home with them before the process is finalized.



Records are Important

The child's original birth certificate needs to include the name given by the birth parents. They may elect to use the adoptive parents' last name.

Don't forget! Please make sure the families do not leave the hospital without completing the paperwork required by the adoption agency!



Be Aware of After-Care

Birth parents may not want a monthly mailing sent to their home about their child's development, but the adoptive parents might. Always ask!

The adoptive parents might be first time parents so treat them as you would any other new parents in regards to education & preparation for taking baby home.



Any Questions?

If the adoption is planned, feel free to introduce yourself to the pregnancy counselor to discuss any questions you may have.

If the adoption was not planned in advance, please feel free to contact us or call our 24-hour-on-call services at 651.287.2599.