

## Approximate Adoption Time Frame

- You may not sign surrenders, your consent to the adoption, until the child is, at least, 72 hours old.
- When you are ready to leave the hospital, you may sign a Temporary Care Agreement with the Agency. **This Does NOT terminate your rights**
- You may elect for the child to stay at the hospital until after surrenders are signed or you may elect to have the Agency place the child in care with the adoptive family, or a temporary foster care family upon the child's release from the hospital.
- Once you have completed the paperwork and surrenders with the Agency, you will have fulfilled your responsibilities in the adoption process.
- The child will be supervised in the adoptive home for six (6) months prior to the finalization of the adoption.

### Family Choices, NFPC and You!

Building loving families one home at a time

## Family Choices, NFPC

1513 University Drive  
Charleston, IL 61920  
Phone: 217-345-6066  
Fax: 217-345-6098

515 W. Main  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
Phone: 618-344-6600  
Fax: 618-344-3920

For e-mail or website questions or contact:  
E-mail: [scwalk@familychoices.net](mailto:scwalk@familychoices.net)  
Website: [www.familychoices.net](http://www.familychoices.net)

## Birth Parent Rights

- You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- You have the right to participate in the development of your child's parenting plan.
- You have the right to work with your Adoption Advocate to address your feelings regarding adoption.
- You have the right to receive copies of all documents you sign.
- You have the right to receive all necessary information to make your decision.
- You have the right to question information on all documents you receive regarding the adoption of your child.

Toll Free 24–Hour Birth Parent Line

1-866-326-6600

Family Choices, NFPC  
A Illinois Licensed Adoption Agency

## Making A Parenting Plan: Things to Consider



Toll Free 24–Hour Birth Parent Line

1-866-326-6600

Illinois License # 423915 ◀



## Making A Parenting Plan

Making a parenting plan is one of the greatest gifts you can give to your child. By participating in making this plan, you lay out the wonderful future that you envision for the child. When you are making these decisions there are many things you have to consider. Remember, you are not in this alone. The staff at Family Choices is here to help you and be with you along the way and even after you have chosen an adoptive placement.

### **What is a parenting plan?**

When a child is born, the birth parent has the absolute right to choose who will parent the child. Your choice may be to take the child home and parent, or your choice may be to place the child for adoption in a qualified home that you select or that is selected by the Agency in the event that the birth mother does not wish to select a family.

### **How can Family Choices assist me in making a parenting plan?**

Should you choose to place your child for adoption, a Family Choices Adoption Advocate will visit with you to discuss your wishes. We will provide you with information necessary for decision making. We are available to discuss issues dealing with adoption, and we are available 24 hours a day at the toll-free number listed on the front and back of this brochure.

### **Do I have the right to select the family?**

Absolutely! Family Choices will provide you with portfolios of families that meet the criteria you provide to us.

### **Can I meet the family I select?**

Absolutely! You may select one family to meet, or a few families to meet. You may meet all the families you are interested in. This gives you the opportunity to discuss issues with them and determine which family most closely matches what you are looking for in parents for your child.

### **Will I be able to know how my child is doing?**

You may have updates on your child if you want them. The provision of periodic updates is an “honor agreement” between you and the adopting family, and is not enforceable in court; however, Family Choices will always do whatever is possible to help you receive periodic updates.

### **Do I have to pick the family or meet them?**

No, you do not have to pick or meet a family. You may wish to select the family but choose a closed adoption and elect not to meet them. You may not even want to select the family. The choice is yours. If you choose to have the Agency select the adoptive family, your guidance or suggestions will be honored.

### **What about the father of the child?**

We will discuss the father with you. Paperwork regarding the father will be completed during our initial visit. The Family Choices Adoption Advocate will explain all the paperwork and issues regarding the father to you.

### **How do adoptive families qualify to adopt?**

With the exception of “relative” placements, adoptive families must be home studied. The home study is the process through which the Courts are provided information on the adoptive families background, financial resources, and ability to adequately raise a child. In Illinois, adoptive families must be fingerprinted and complete background checks. Additionally, once placement is made, these families are monitored for six months and a final report is provided to the court.

### **Will I be told when things are final?**

If you want to know, this information will be provided to you.

### **What if I need to talk about the adoption at some point in time?**

Family Choices is available to you for counseling regarding adoption and issues relating to adoption. You may access counseling prior to, during, or after the placement. If you need to talk about the adoption, an adoption advocate, even years after the placement, at no cost to you.