



expectant parent information packet

Strengthen families through ethical, Christ-centered foster care, adoption, and global orphan care.



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about

HOPE'S PROMISE

OUR STORY

Hope's Promise is a Christian, non-profit child placement agency licensed by the State of Colorado. In our adoption program, we provide both domestic Colorado placement services as well as domestic and international home study services. Our agency also provides foster care and global orphan care services. Hope's Promise was founded by Paula Freeman in 1990 after she and her husband adopted their daughter, Hope, from India. Paula made a promise to Hope to change the way adoption was practiced and make it easier for children to come home to Christian families. We have successfully served expectant parents, birth families, and adoptive families through our adoption program since that time. We accept applications from adoptive families who live throughout the United States and provide free counseling and support services to expectant parents who live in Colorado.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

Children are our first priority. Dedicated to support and care for children through our adoption, foster care, and orphan care programs, Hope's Promise advocates for ethical practice standards and the best interest of each child. We believe God planned families as the best place for children to grow and thrive...families that not only love, nurture and empower their children to achieve their full potential, but families prepared for the unique joys and challenges of adoptive parenthood.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EXPECTANT PARENTS

An unplanned pregnancy can be a scary and challenging time for expectant families. We understand your fears and hesitations and are here to listen, encourage and provide an environment where you can obtain accurate information about adoption and safely explore your options. Our experienced and compassionate pregnancy counselors provide options and relinquishment counseling throughout Colorado, referrals to community resources and pregnancy support, individualized parenting and adoption planning, open adoption services and a listening ear. We are committed to you and want to help you make the best decision for you and your family.



how

ADOPTION WORKS

Our first priority is to give you accurate information about adoption. Once you contact Hope's Promise, we will talk with you to decide how we can best meet your needs. The following is a summary of some of the many decisions you will face as you consider the option of adoption.

Options and Relinquishment Counseling

Counseling from a licensed adoption agency is required in the state of Colorado. The purpose of this is to protect you and your rights. During this initial counseling process, our job is to help you understand your options and support you in making a healthy, intentional decision about your future and the future of your child.

Adoption

Choosing to make an adoption plan helps many women regain stability in their personal lives and creates a positive future for their child. Our counselors will take the time to listen to your concerns in a safe, non-judgmental environment. We will assist you with the legal process, selecting an adoptive family, and choosing the amount of contact with your adoptive family. We can also help with financial assistance, transportation, housing, and Medicaid. And we are here for you as long as you need us after placement--including our monthly birth mom support group.

Parenting

We understand that adoption is not right for everyone. If you decide to parent, we want you to become the best parent you can be! Let us help with counseling and referrals to necessary support services in the community.

Selecting an Adoptive Family

Once you feel ready to select an adoptive family, your counselor will help you through this process. We will help you create the best plan for you, the prospective adoptive family, and most importantly, your child. Many expectant families choose open adoption. If this is something that you are interested in, we will help you select an adoptive family and determine what the open adoption relationship should look like. You can check out some of our waiting families on our website at www.hopespromise.com/meet-families/



Open Adoption

Open adoption is very common today. An open adoption means that identifying information is shared and there is direct communication between the birth family and adoptive family. Exchanging letters, pictures, and updates can be expected, as well as personal visits. The frequency of contact and type of contact is determined by the birth family and the adoptive family together. No two adoptions are the same. Relationships develop in a way that benefits everyone involved. Your counselor will help you determine what is best for you. Colorado does have an option of a legally enforceable Post Adoption Contact Agreement (PACA)

Hospital Support and Placement

As the birth of your baby draws near, we will help you take a close look at the time you will spend in the hospital. We will help you create a plan for how you want these precious days to be spent. We are available to you during your hospital stay and want your time in the hospital to be as comfortable as possible. Many birth families prefer to have their baby discharged from the hospital directly into the care of their selected adoptive family. These are details we will help you decide at the appropriate time.

Legal Documents

Legal documents can be completed anytime after the birth of your baby. The time frame for when your decision becomes legally binding varies greatly based on your situation. Be assured that we will protect your legal rights, and will inform you each step of the way. We encourage and support you in using an independent, legal council to review legal documents with you.

Why Hope's Promise?

Making an adoption plan can be confusing and overwhelming. Hope's Promise understands this and will strive to meet your needs during this stressful time. We are committed to you and want to help you make the best decision for you and your family.

frequently

ASKED QUESTIONS

How can you help me?

Our compassionate staff will give you accurate information on all your options so you can make the best decision for you and your child. We can also help you with pregnancy-related expenses, counseling, and support throughout your pregnancy. If you choose adoption, we can help match you with a wonderful adoptive family.

Do I have to decide about adoption before contacting Hope's Promise?

No. Our job is to give you accurate information about all of your options. We are here to help you sort out your feelings and make a plan that is right for you.

Does it cost anything?

No. All services to pregnancy clients are free.

Is there someone I can talk to? Will you come to me?

Yes! We can meet you at a place convenient for you or you can come to our office. Call (303) 660-0277 to speak with a pregnancy counselor and schedule a free appointment. Trained counselors are on call 24 hours a day to serve you. You can also email us at info@hopespromise.com or text (303) 908-3083. If you have an after-hours emergency, please contact us by phone or text.

What if I decide to parent?

There are no obligations. We want to help you make an intentional choice about your future and your child's future. We understand adoption is not right for everyone so if you choose to parent, we can help find community resources to help you.

What is adoption?

Adoption is the legal transfer of parental rights and responsibilities from the birth parents to another individual or couple who is willing to assume them. It is a permanent decision.

What is open adoption?

Open adoption is an adoption where full identifying information is shared between the birth family and adoptive families (last names, addresses, and phone numbers). Open adoption varies based on the degree of openness the birth and adoptive parents want but typically involves some level of contact.



(frequently asked questions continued)

Do you do open adoptions?

Yes, most of our domestic placements are open. The degree of openness, however, is mutually agreed upon between the birth and adoptive families.

What is semi-open adoption?

Semi-open adoption means identifying information is not shared and ongoing contact between the birth and adoptive families goes through a third party, such as an adoption agency.

What is closed adoption?

Closed adoption means that no identifying information is shared between the birth and adoptive families, and they do not plan to meet or have any further contact.

Can I choose what kind of adoption I want to have?

Yes. Open, semi-open, and closed adoptions are all options in Colorado. This is a personal decision.

Can I choose an adoptive family?

Yes. We have wonderful, qualified families to choose from. You can see some of these waiting families on the website. If you have already selected an adoptive family, we can help you complete a designated adoption.

When can I choose a family?

You choose a family whenever you are ready. One of our pregnancy counselors can help you with this. How do I select an adoptive family? We think it's best to discuss this with your Hope's Promise counselor. She knows you, and she knows the adoptive families in our waiting pool. We have profile books of wonderful families from which to choose. After selecting a family, a match meeting can be scheduled so you can meet them and decide if they are right for you.

How do you screen adoptive families?

We complete a state-required home study on each family. That means we compile a detailed, confidential file on the family which includes references, employer verification, financial information, criminal records checks, family background information, and other documents that help us determine if they are able to provide a safe and stable home for a child. We also conduct extensive personal interviews and visit their home. We also provide each family with a minimum of 16 hours of adoption education.

Do I have to sign a contract to work with Hope's Promise?

No. In fact, we do not believe it is ethical for any agency to ask you to sign a contract to work with them. We are here to serve you and help you make a good decision for you and your child.

Do I need a lawyer?

Colorado is an "agency state" which means you must go through an adoption agency like Hope's Promise. We will complete all legal steps necessary for your adoption. However, in the event of unusual or complicated legal issues, Hope's Promise may also use the services of an attorney. We do recommend that you meet with independent legal counsel if you wish, and have lawyer recommendations for you if you desire.

(frequently asked questions continued)

My family doesn't know I'm pregnant; will you help me talk to them?

Of course. We know this can be a very scary time. We will work with you to determine the best way to tell your family about your pregnancy.

Do my parents have to know?

Legally they do not. However, if you are under 18 years of age, some Colorado judges require that your parent or legal guardian be advised and consent to your adoption plan. We are not required to notify parents and will keep your case completely confidential.

What rights do grandparents have?

In the state of Colorado, grandparents have no rights if you make a voluntary adoption plan for a newborn baby.

Can I see my baby after he or she is born?

Absolutely! Whether you see and hold your baby in the hospital is completely up to you. We will work with the hospital staff to ensure that your wishes are met.

What services do you provide after my child is placed for adoption?

We are here for you as long as you need us. We provide ongoing counseling, referrals, and overall support to you and your family for as long as you need us. In addition, we have a monthly support group you can attend any time you need it.

I think my parents may struggle with my adoption decision, can you help them?

Yes, we can. We offer counseling services to all members of your family. The counseling is free, and we will come to them (in Colorado). We understand that many family members struggle and grieve, both for you and the child. Their issues may be different from yours. We can counsel with them independently, or with you, whatever your family prefers.

Do I have to tell the birth father?

The birth father must be notified that you are making an adoption plan for this child. However, if you do not wish to have contact with him, your counselor can notify him on your behalf. We have no obligation to any of his family members. We will work very closely with you to make this notification process as easy and safe as possible. Colorado laws have been established to protect all parties.

What if I'm not sure who the birth father is, can I still make an adoption plan?

Yes, and this is more common than you might think.

I don't have medical insurance; can you help me?

Yes. If you do not have medical insurance we can help you submit a Medicaid application. If you are not eligible for Medicaid, and if you make an adoption plan, your medical expenses can be paid by the adoptive parents.

Can you help me with financial assistance?

Yes. In Colorado, we can help with pregnancy related expenses..