



Understanding Infant Adoption 7 Handout

Questions for Patients to Ask Adoption Agencies and/or Attorneys

- How long have you been in business?
- Are you licensed in my state?
- What pregnancy options will you discuss with me?
- What is your experience with adoption?
- How many expectant parents have you worked with?
- What counseling and support services do you offer?
 - What services do you provide if I decide to parent my child?
 - What services do you provide if I want to make an adoption plan?
 - What kinds of adoption arrangements are possible?
 - If my baby has special needs, is adoption still possible?
 - How will you protect my best interests and the best interests of my child through the adoption process? How will you protect my legal rights?
- What if I change my mind?
 - Can I change my mind after starting the adoption process? How much time will I have to decide?
 - Can I decide to place my child for adoption after taking them home from the hospital?
 - Are there any consequences for changing my mind?
- If I am under 18, will my parents need to be involved in the adoption process?

- Will the father of my child need to be involved in the adoption process?
- What do you need to know about me and my child's father, and why? What information will be confidential, and what will be shared with my child and/or adoptive parents?
- Who selects the adoptive parents for my child?
 - Can I choose the adoptive parents?
 - How will you discuss prospective adoptive parent choices with me?
 - What information will I know about them?
 - How will I know they are qualified?
 - Will I get to meet them?
 - How do you handle failed matches?
- Can I see my child at the hospital after they are born?
- Can I have contact with my child after the adoption?
 - Can I be sure that the adoptive parents will let me continue to have contact with my child after adoption?
 - What services do you provide to encourage, support, and enforce continued contact with my child after the adoption?
 - Can I have contact with my child when they are an adult?
- What post-adoption services and support will I need?
 - What do most birth mothers feel and experience after they place their child for adoption?
 - Do you have a support group or other resources to connect me with other birth parents who have placed their child for adoption?
 - What other support services are available to help me after placement?
 - Is there a time limit on these services?
- Will I have to pay for any of your services? If so, for what and how much?
- Is there someone who has used your services that I can talk with before making a decision?

About the Adoption-Sensitive Clinical Care Project

It is critical that expectant parents who may wish to place a child for adoption have access to appropriately trained staff and comprehensive supports throughout the adoption process. The federally-funded Adoption-Sensitive Clinical Care Project and the Understanding Infant Adoption curriculum are being administered by [National Council For Adoption \(NCFA\)](#), [The Adoption & Foster Care Clinic](#), [Spaulding for Children](#), and [University of Washington School of Social Work](#) for the project period 2024-2026.

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