

Birthfather Involvement



The Cradle encourages birthfathers to take an active role in planning for the future of their unborn child. We work with many birthfathers each year who are glad they chose to be involved. Your counselor can give you a special packet created for men who would like to learn more about adoption.

You and your counselor will talk a lot about your baby's father, how you would like him to be involved and the amount of involvement that is necessary to make an adoption plan legally secure.

You may not be on the best of terms with the father of your baby right now. He might not even know you are pregnant. If this is the case, the following information will give you a better idea of the rights and responsibilities birthfathers have according to Illinois law. Whatever you decide, getting accurate medical and social history from him is critical to your baby's health record now, and in the future.

Birthfathers have the right and the responsibility to take part in all decisions regarding an adoption plan. In the end, he may take one of four paths when a birthmother considers adoption:

- Make a plan of adoption
- Deny paternity
- Establish paternity to oppose adoption
- Do nothing- his rights may be terminated by the court

Making an Adoption Plan

If he acknowledges that he is the father of your baby and agrees to the plan of adoption, he will need to sign a legal document. This will end his parental rights to the child. Signing this document is only for the purposes of adoption. His signature will not prevent you from receiving child support if you later choose to parent your baby.

"When my wife told me she was pregnant, I felt overwhelmed. I knew that we could not afford to parent this child. We chose a family for our daughter. From the moment I saw them, I knew that this was her family. All my reservations left me; they were already parents in my eyes."

*– Dan, age 28,
chose adoption for his
daughter in 1999*

If the father of your baby wishes to be involved in the open adoption relationship, he will also need to be present to discuss ongoing contact with you and the adoptive family.