

## ADOPTION MYTHS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**MYTH #1: I have no rights as a biological parent.**

**TRUTH:** You have the right to make the best decision for your child. This can include choosing to parent your baby, or choosing to place your baby for adoption. A CHS social worker will help you make the best decision for you and your child.

**MYTH #2: Birth parents are abandoning their babies and taking the easy way out.**

**TRUTH:** Adoption is not easy. Birth mothers are making a loving, courageous choice when they place their babies for adoption. It is not a decision made lightly or without a lot of thought and consideration.

**MYTH #3: Adoptive parents won't love an adopted child as much as a biological one.**

**TRUTH:** Parental love is parental love—and that love is not always tied to biology. Adoptive parents have eagerly waited to care for and nurture this child. They will love their adopted child unconditionally.

**MYTH #4: Birth parents are not allowed to see their child or know how he/she is doing after the adoption.**

**TRUTH:** There are many different types of adoption. The openness of the adoption, which is agreed upon by the birth parents and adoptive parents, will determine the amount of contact between the birth family and adoptive family. Updates with pictures and letters can also be exchanged through CHS.

**MYTH #5: Birth mothers never recover from the emotional impact of an adoption.**

**TRUTH:** Birth mothers grieve the absence of their children. They generally find peace and healing about the decision they made to place their children in loving adoptive homes. Counselors and social workers can help adoptive mothers through this process.

**MYTH #6: If a birth mother does not know who the birth father is, or is unable to locate him, then the child cannot be placed for adoption.**

**TRUTH:** It is not necessary to know exactly who the birth father is, but it is important for the birth mother to share with us all of the information she knows about him. We will make attempts to contact him and terminate his parental rights. Once the birth father's rights have been terminated, he cannot come back and reclaim the child.