



# WE HELP MOTHERS

## WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

For women who are pregnant or who have just delivered a baby, our trained social workers offer free, unbiased counseling support to help explore her options—with complete confidentiality.

**CALL OUR HOTLINE 800.247.2888**

# WE ARE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR.

JUST CALL OUR HOTLINE TO TALK DIRECTLY TO ONE OF OUR TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS: **800.247.2888**



## WHAT IS TEMPORARY INFANT CARE?

Birth parents may choose to place their child in temporary infant care for a limited time. Some parents choose temporary care if they are uncertain about permanent plans for their child. This provides a safe, nurturing environment for the child while the birth parents finalize their plan for the baby. There are no fees for this service.

### Here's how it works:

- CHS has approved families who are trained to care for healthy children as well as those with special medical needs.
- A CHS social worker maintains contact with the family providing care and visits the child on a regular basis throughout the temporary period.
- We encourage the birth parents to visit the baby during this period of temporary care. The birth parents can spend time with the baby, and can also meet the family providing care.
- A CHS social worker maintains a counseling relationship with the birth parents during this time, to assist the birth parents in finalizing a permanent plan for the baby within the limited time. This can include a plan to place the baby for adoption, place the baby with a relative, or preparation to parent the child.

## WHAT IS A PARENTAL PLACEMENT ADOPTION?

In a parental placement adoption, the child is placed by the birth parents directly with the adoptive parents. Our agency does not take custody of the child. This type of adoption is also called an open adoption.

### Here's how it works:

- The birth parents can choose an adoptive family by reviewing profiles of families approved by a licensed agency. Some of these approved families can be viewed on our website at [chsva.org](http://chsva.org).
- Birth parents are allowed by law to request assistance with medical bills, legal expenses, and, in some cases, living expenses.
- Birth parents and adoptive families may have an ongoing relationship throughout the child's life. It is up to them. This may include visits, letters, pictures, and updates on how the child is doing.
- The child is placed with the adoptive parents directly from the hospital. A court date will be set to finalize the adoption.
- The birth parents must be offered counseling by a licensed child-placing agency like CHS. The adoptive family must also have an approved home study completed by a licensed agency like CHS.

## WHAT IS AGENCY ADOPTION?

In this type of adoption, the custody of the child is given to a licensed child-placing agency, like CHS.

### Here's how it works:

*The birth parents have several choices, including:*

- A traditional closed adoptive placement in which the agency makes all decisions.
- A semi-open adoptive placement in which the birth parents can choose the adoptive parents from approved family profiles. The two families can have a non-identifying meeting and can maintain non-identifying contact through the agency, including pictures and letters. The social worker acts as an intermediary.
- A completely open placement in which the birth parents can designate adoptive parents. Birth parents can choose an adoptive family from reviewing family profiles or they can meet a family through other resources. Birth parents and adoptive parents can share names and addresses with each other and maintain ongoing contact, as well as ongoing contact with the child. A social worker can provide support, if requested.





## FREE COUNSELING 24/7

At CHS, we work with birth mothers and birth fathers during a difficult time, and help them develop a plan that's best for them and their child. We counsel birth mothers and birth fathers during the pregnancy, and we provide counseling and other support services after the baby is born.

CHS provides this confidential, unbiased counseling service free of charge, and regardless of whether an adoptive placement occurs.

We are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Just call our hotline to talk directly to one of our trained social workers.

## A RANGE OF SUPPORT

### AT CHS, WE OFFER A FULL RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING:

- Confidential professional counseling. All of our services to birth parents are free of charge.
- Adoption of infants and young children with special needs, as well as those who are healthy.
- Temporary infant care for infants and toddlers. Families who provide this care are fully screened and trained.
- Parental placement adoption and agency adoption services. This includes adoptions in which birth parents choose their baby's adoptive family, and adoptions in which birth parents ask us to choose their baby's adoptive family.
- Support and referrals for medical care, financial, housing, and other types of assistance which birth parents and/or their child may need before, during, or after the birth.

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### FREDERICKSBURG

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### HOTLINE

800.247.2888

[CHSVA.ORG](http://CHSVA.ORG)

