

## **DEFINITIONS OF ADOPTION**

### ***Open Adoption***

The birthparents will choose the adoptive family for their child. The birthparents will meet the chosen adoptive family prior to placement and all identifying information will be shared by both parties. In an open adoption, both birthparents, adoptive parents, and the adopted child maintain ongoing contact over the years and a lifelong relationship is formed.

### ***Semi-Open Adoption***

In a semi open adoption the birthparents may specify particular characteristics with regard to the adoptive family. The birthparents may also meet the adoptive parents either pre-delivery or after placement on a first name basis. After placement the birthparent may receive pictures and letters from the adoptive family through the agency.

### ***Closed Adoption***

A closed adoption is one in which the birthparents have little or no control of the adoptive placement of their child. They probably will not have information about their child's health or whereabouts. There is no ongoing contact between birth and adoptive parents.

## **THE BENEFITS AND ADVANTAGES OF OPEN ADOPTION**

### ***For the child***

1. To have access to genetic and heredity history (including medical information).
2. A sense of completeness and closure (no life-long yearning and searching).
3. By integrating birth parent history, a more positive sense of identity is formed.
4. No secrets = no shame = no stigma.

### ***For the birth parents***

1. Life-long contact and knowledge of the child's whereabouts and welfare.
2. Selects adopting family and is part of the planning.
3. Empowered to make decisions which allows her/him to come to closure more easily in the grief process.
4. No secrets = no shame = no stigma

### ***For the adoptive family***

1. They are chosen by birth parents, given their blessing and the "permission" to parent.
2. Access to medical and genetic information.
3. They can participate in the pregnancy and birth experience, aiding in the attachment process.
4. No secrets = no shame = no stigma