

# Arizona Adoption Help

*Helping Birthmothers in Arizona for over 35 years*

*All services FREE to Birthmothers*



# birth parent INFORMATION

## BIRTH PARENT INFORMATION

Attorney Thomas F. Underwood

Arizona Adoption Help

2375 East Camelback Road, Suite 600

Phoenix, AZ 85016

P: (602) 271-9899

F: (888) 533-4985

E: [Adoption@AzAdoptionHelp.com](mailto:Adoption@AzAdoptionHelp.com)

[www.AzAdoptionHelp.com](http://www.AzAdoptionHelp.com)

## Local Adoption Services Free to Birthmothers

Finding out about a pregnancy can be a very emotional and overwhelming experience for some women. If your pregnancy is unplanned, you may be frightened or uncertain about what to do. Many women facing an unplanned pregnancy feel exactly the way you are feeling now. Some are young and not prepared to parent a child. Some are older but not in a position to take on the financial and emotional responsibility of this unborn child. Some women are in circumstances that simply do not permit them to give their unborn child the stable, loving home that they want him to have. For every one of these women, there is a family yearning to love and cherish her child and give him the home and future and life she wants him to have.

Consider making a wonderful future for your child and creating a family through adoption. Adoption is a loving, unselfish choice. As the mother of your child, you are the only one who can make this very important decision, both for yourself and your child. You are the only one who knows your circumstances and your heart. You are the only one who knows what is best for both you and for your unborn child.

If you are uncertain about parenting, adoption is a loving choice: you make the future you want for you child; you create an amazing family for parents who cannot have children; you have control over your life and future. This is a decision you can be proud of and know, in your heart, you made a loving and responsible choice.

We have been helping expectant mothers plan the perfect adoption for their child for over thirty-five years. We would love to answer your questions and explain this wonderful, loving journey of adoption.



## Representing Birthmothers Only

Most adoption agencies represent the adoptive family, not the birthmother, thus focusing their efforts on the adoptive family and overlooking the needs and rights of the mother carrying the child. Attorney Thomas Underwood only represents the Birthmother. He makes sure every step is taken with you in mind with a number of resources to aid you no matter what situation you might face.

## We are in Arizona

We are local, here in Arizona, available to meet you in person and be with you every step of the way during your adoption journey. Our staff is filled with caring individuals who do the work they do because it matters. They are here to guide you through this process and honor your journey.

## All Services are no cost for the Birthmothers

We offer our services free of charge to all expectant mothers giving birth in the state of Arizona. Legal services, counseling, medical help and living assistance including rent, utilities and transportation are included. We offer these services and so much more to help make sure you know your baby is going to a loving and secure family; while providing all the support you need to successfully navigate the Arizona adoption process.

## Trusted for Over 35 Years

For the past 35 years, we have represented well over 1,000 Birthmothers in their journey to find the perfect family for their unborn child, providing not only financial and legal assistance but emotional support as well. Our greatest thanks has been the knowledge that we have helped to provide loving families with so much happiness, while giving Birthmothers the

confidence they need knowing their child is safe and well cared for.



## We Make Sure All Adoptive Families are Certified

All adoptive parents have gone through arduous and thorough investigation, including: criminal background, legal background, home visits, interviews with neighbors, employers, family and friends, to become certified and qualified to adopt in the jurisdiction where they live. The testimonials of families and Birthmothers really show just how big of an impact you can make in somebody's life by giving your baby to a loving family to love and cherish. All of these families want to add a child to their family to love and cherish.

Adoption is a life-changing decision that affects all members of the adoption process: birth parents, adopted child, and adoptive parents. If you are considering adoption, no doubt you have many questions. Before you commit to adoption, let us provide the adoption information you need to help you in making an informed decision.

## Common Questions from Birth Parents

What communication will I have with the adopting family during the pregnancy?

How much or how little involvement you want with the family is completely up to you. Many Birthmothers and adoptive families start with emails, phone calls or Skype calls to better get to know each other during the pregnancy. If you are uncomfortable having contact with the adoptive family, you don't have to. You can meet the family if you choose. If you would like them at the hospital when you deliver, they will try to arrive before you deliver. These are things you can consider while speaking to our counselor, Kris.

How do I explain this decision to my friends and family?

Choosing a future and creating a family for your child, when you personally are unable to, is the most unselfish, courageous decision you will probably ever be called upon to make. Your family and friends will understand this when you explain this to them.

May I follow the progress of my child after his birth?

If you like, you may stay in contact with the family over the years with pictures and letters.

What if I don't know who the father of my child is?

This is not uncommon and the adoption can proceed legally even if you do not know who he is or where he is.



### May I receive living expenses?

Your health and welfare during your pregnancy are of paramount importance to everyone concerned. Living expenses are approved by the court and depend upon your need. You will fill out a budget and it will be submitted to the court for approval. Most reasonable expenses are approved such as rent, utilities, transportation, food and other basic necessities. The court wants to make sure that you and your unborn baby remain healthy and safe.

### How do I pay my medical expenses?

All medical bills not otherwise paid by insurance or AHCCCS are paid by the adoptive family.

### What if I do not have transportation for my medical and counseling appointments?

Your health insurance provider may offer transportation to medical appointments. If not, we will provide transportation to get you to and from any medical or counseling appointments.

### What is the first step in my adoption plan?

Call us today, collect if necessary. Kim, a caring woman who loves her involvement with adoption work, will speak with you and arrange to meet with you at a time and place convenient to you. We admire any pregnant woman who is brave enough to recognize that parenting may not be the right choice for her and who loves her child so much that she wants to plan a future and find a loving family for her child.



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## A Birth Mother's Story

My name is Abigail and two months ago I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. When I found out I was pregnant, it was my third year of college. I met someone casually and I didn't know what he was going to say about a baby. We talked about abortion, but I knew it was something I couldn't do. This baby could have a family and a life. Thankfully I had the support of my friends. I called Arizona Adoption Help and spoke with Vanessa, who made me feel a lot better about the process and even met with me in person to fill out paperwork. At first it's all sort of overwhelming. I was fearful about my future and the future of this baby. But it's about taking one step at a time. Arizona Adoption Help made me feel so comfortable, letting me know that what I was going through was not unusual and that they would be here for me every step of the way. First we found an OBGYN and I had my first appointment. Seeing the baby on the ultrasound was a profound moment for me. It's so incredible to think of this tiny being beginning her life in there.

The next step was finding the perfect family for my child. I met with Kris, the counselor at Arizona Adoption Help, and we talked about what kind of family I envisioned and what kind of relationship I would be comfortable with. It was great knowing that there isn't one way an adoption looks. I could choose the family and decide how much involvement I wanted to have with them. Looking at profiles of adopting families was a hard moment for me. It was bitter sweet thinking that while I wasn't able to give this kind of life to my baby girl, here were these amazing people that could. Then I opened Tricia and Steve's profile and the connection was immediate. We scheduled to have a phone call and I can't explain how this little baby brought us together so easily. We talked about my childhood and plans for the future and they told me about their interests and hopes for a family. From that moment on, things changed. I felt more at peace knowing that there were two people out there thinking about this child as much as I was. I wasn't alone in this process for a second. The best thing about adoption is that you choose. If the first five profiles don't connect with you, you can keep asking for more. I just want other birth moms to know that their child's family is out there. Finding them can be a process but the peace of mind you feel after makes everything worth it.

As the delivery date approached, they made plans to fly to town. I went into labor around 11pm at night. Lacey, our baby girl, was born at 8:28am. She was beautiful. And sweet and perfect and calm. Steve and Tricia made the first flight out and arrived around noon. Steve held Lacey and we all just stood in awe of this perfect little girl. The next 48 hours were spent in the hospital. Steve and Tricia were able to stay in the room next door to me and spent Lacey's first precious nights with her. We had visitors in the day, my friends came, and time just stood still for awhile. I felt so proud and happy for my daughter to feel all that love. She deserved every bit of it. When it came time for us to leave, I'm not going to lie, there were tears. I loved her from the first moment and I was going to miss everything about her. But Tricia and Steve were going to be amazing parents. The next few days were hard, but I had such amazing support. With everyone at Arizona Adoption Help, I was never alone or left wondering what was going to happen. I'm so thankful for each and every person involved in welcoming my baby girl into this world. She will always be my angel.

Peace and Love, Abigail