



SERVICES TO BIRTH PARENTS

DIAKON PREGNANCY SERVICES

- Provides options counseling to the birth mother
- Maintains contact with the birth mother throughout pregnancy
- Helps the birth mother with insurance and legal issues throughout the hospital and adoption experience
- Helps birth parents choose an adoptive family if adoption is chosen
- Facilitates the adoptive placement and coordinates all placement activities
- Promotes discussion of varied levels of openness based on birth and adoptive parent desires; maintains birth parents' confidentiality to extent requested
- Coordinates exchange of correspondence between birth and adoptive families if adoption is chosen
- Continues to provide emotional support to birth parents, particularly in the first year after active service

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

Diakon Pregnancy Services
One South Home Avenue
Topton, PA 19562

Toll-free: 888-582-2230
Text SERVICES to 444999
www.diakon.org/pregnancy

THE MISSION OF DIAKON

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries will demonstrate God's command to love the neighbor through acts of service.



Counseling. Support. Resources.

Diakon does not discriminate in admissions, the provision of services or referrals of clients on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran status, disability or any other classes protected by law.

DIAKON PREGNANCY SERVICES: *Help in a confusing situation*

Helping You Decide

Diakon Pregnancy Services will work with you to help you:

- Plan the best course of action for you and your child
- Deal with the wide range of emotions you'll experience
- Feel comfortable with your decision, whatever it is

We will meet with you and speak in total confidence at your home, our office or any other location convenient for you.

We can even help you with the sometimes-difficult task of relating news of the pregnancy to the father of the child or to other family members.

Our overall goal is to help you make an informed decision by discussing:

- Resources for single parenting
- Adoption

Plus, there is no fee for our service.



State law, however, does not permit us to pay any of your living expenses during your pregnancy. If you decide on adoption and accumulate medical expenses related to the pregnancy not covered by health care insurance, the prospective adoptive family will be asked to assist with such costs.

What Are My Options?

We explore all options with you, with no pressure to decide on a particular plan.

Speaking with someone who really understands, other than family or friends, can be especially helpful when making these lifelong decisions.

Choosing Parenting

If you decide to parent your child, our staff members will meet with you to assist you in finding community resources.

Choosing Adoption

If you choose adoption, Diakon maintains a list of approved resource families waiting to adopt a newborn. Each family has received extensive state-approved training.

Under Pennsylvania law, the father has the same rights as the mother. Therefore, if you consider a voluntary plan of adoption, the father must be in agreement. If you do not feel comfortable discussing this topic with him, Diakon staff can assist you by reaching out to him.

Open or Closed Adoption?

In open adoption, you can maintain contact with your child through continuing correspondence and even request in-person visits as well.

However, you may also opt to have no future contact.

In either case, you are able to select a family for your child from the list of resource families Diakon maintains—a list that includes resumes written by the family to describe themselves. You can even meet in person with your selected family.

Our Special Focus: You

Diakon Pregnancy Services focuses on meeting the needs of all three parties involved in an adoption—the baby, the birth parents and the adoptive family. Our emphasis, though, is on helping you, the birth mother, through this challenging time.

Our experienced and sensitive staff members meet with you throughout your pregnancy and stay in touch for at least one year following the birth of your baby, offering practical, emotional support.

We make sure you are fully informed of the step-by-step adoption process and all the options available during this time.

We also will prepare you for the hospital experience and assist you through the legal processes related to adoption. In addition, we will refer you to appropriate community and education resources as needed.



Keeping in Touch

You can write a letter to your child explaining in your own words the reasons for your decision, and you may send along one or more special gifts or mementos if you wish. You can also send a photo.

The Future...

As the years progress, we will provide a link among you, your child, and the adoptive family, not only for the exchange of letters and photographs, but also for updating important medical information.

In addition, search and reunion services are available after your child reaches the age of 18, if agreed to by all parents.