Catholic Social Services' Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services

Birth Parents

Pregnant woman approaches CSS and requests program services.

CSS provides options counseling.

Birth parents choose to parent their child. → CSS provides ongoing support, assistance and referrals.

Birth parents choose to make an adoption plan. → Birth parents will discuss the type of adoptive family they are interested in.

Birth mother may choose To maintain her privacy and not name the birth father, or not notify her tribe (if AK Native)

Birth mother is at least 7 months pregnant.

Adoptive Parents

Adoptive Parents express an interest in adopting through CSS & complete intake form

Review literature on adoption. CSS will notify you of upcoming workshops

Attend informational workshop at CSS. Topics include openness and transracial adoption.

Decide if CSS adoption is right for you.

Obtain application packet → Compile autographical, financial, health, and other info.

Submit Application packet

PHASE I begins

Begin home study with writer assigned by agency (3-4 months)

Home study is complete

Begin your portfolio and birth parent letter.

PHASE II begins

Submit portfolio to CSS and discuss preferences → Congratulations, you're now in the waiting pool!

Matching

Adoptive family portfolios selected based on preferences and are shown to birth parents.

Initial Meeting between birth parents and adoptive parents. CSS will facilitate.

Vision Merging Families will discuss plan for pre- & post delivery and ongoing relationship.

Birth mother creates hospital plan

Birth mother goes home with baby and chooses to parent → CSS provides ongoing support, assistance and referrals.

Change of heart

Baby is born!

Baby is discharged to an interim care foster family. Used when birth mom needs time to decide, or the selected adopted family is not immediately available.

Adoptive parents may have the opportunity to stay at the hospital with the baby, as specified in birth mom's hospital plan

Birth parents choose to relinquish their parental rights to CSS.

Child is not AK Native → Birth parents sign relinquishment at CSS no sooner than 2* days after the child's birth (*could be longer)

Child is AK Native → Birth parents sign relinquishment before a Judge no sooner than 10* days after the child's birth (*could be longer)

Birth parents have 10 days to withdraw their relinquishment after signing.

Change of heart → Birth parents choose to parent their child. → CSS provides ongoing support, assistance and referrals.

Relinquishment waiting period ends. → CSS continues to provide support and assistance to birth parents.

Provide foster care for the baby during the relinquishment period.

Phase III begins

Typically, birth parents will have a visit with their child during the waiting period.

This is a legal risk placement before the relinquishment waiting period ends.

Your home is now an adoptive placement. Adoptive family should begin the process of hiring an attorney for finalization.

Phase IV begins

Post placement visits at the 1 month, 3 month, and 5 month markers.

Adoption Finalization! Adoption can be finalized no sooner than six months after the date of placement. CSS will transfer custody to adoptive parents.