

## What is Private Domestic Adoption?

Adoption is the legal process where the parental rights and responsibilities of caring for a child are transferred for birthparents to an identified parent, or set of parents, in order to ensure the child has a loving and permanent family. In a domestic adoption, both the child to be adopted and the identified adoptive family are residents of the same country. LSC believes adoption can be a positive choice for both expectant parents and the unborn child, as a means to make sure the child has a stable, loving and nurturing family. In 2011, over 18,000 private adoptions were finalized in the United States.

## We Can Help!

LSC recognizes making an adoption plan for your unborn child can be a difficult choice, but it is one that is made out of love and great courage. At LSC, we are here to provide support and guidance through the adoption process to ensure you make a plan that is the best option for you and your unborn child. The staff at LSC specializes in educating birth parents of their pregnancy options.

## What Can You Expect?

If choosing adoption, our dedicated staff will gladly guide you through the adoption process, including:

- **Pregnancy Options Counseling**: LSC staff will provide expectant parents information about all pregnancy options, including adoption. Our staff will give you information about the adoption process and provide counseling to assist you in considering whether or not adoption is the best plan for you and your unborn child.
- **Making an Adoption Plan**: If you choose adoption as the best plan for you and your unborn child, LSC private adoptions counselors will provide you with information on your options for your adoption plan and assist you in thinking about the type of adoption that you were prefer. This includes what degree of openness you prefer in your adoption, what traits you prefer in the adoptive family and details about your birth/hospital experience.
- **Choosing Adoptive Parents**: If you choose an open adoption, LSC will assist you in reviewing profiles of qualified and pre-approved adoptive families. You are able to talk to and/or meet with them in person should you choose. In a closed adoption, you can ask LSC to choose an adoptive family that is the best match based on your preferences.
- **Birth and placement of the child with the adoptive family**: LSC staff will be there to support you during the birth. After the child is born, (s)he is placed in the care of the adoptive family upon leaving the hospital.
- **Relinquishment/Consent**: After placement of the child with the adoptive family, birth parents sign documents legalizing the adoption placement and formally transferring parental rights to the adoptive family.
- **Post-Adoption Services**: LSC will continue to provide supportive services to birthparents after the adoption is finalized, including counseling and other referrals as needed. We can put you in contact with other birthparents whom may be able to share in your unique experiences. Depending on the degree of openness you choose, you may continue to have a relationship with the child and the adoptive family.