

# Considering adoption? You have rights.

As a parent, you have the right to:

- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Explore all options in a safe, non-coercive environment
- Be fully informed about your legal rights related to parenting or adoptive planning
- Have your questions answered honestly and completely
- Include family and friends in any meeting, if desired

If you have questions about your rights or want more information about adoption or parenting, please contact Bethany today.

Talk or text:

In addition, your rights related to adoption plans include:

- Choosing a prospective adoptive family, if you want to
- Be informed of the process adoptive families go through prior to approval
- Developing a personalized adoption plan that includes decisions about ongoing communication and contact
- Ability to give signed consent before any social, medical, or mental health information is shared with prospective adoptive families
- Receiving copies of all adoption-related documents that you need to sign and have them provided or explained in your preferred language
- Spending as much, or as little, time in the hospital with your baby as you want
- Receiving information about the post-placement services and support available to you
- Appointing a guardian to represent your interests if you're under the age of 19
- Signing adoption relinquishment documents prior to birth or any time after birth

Additional information to keep in mind:

- Biological grandparents have no legal authority to parent a newborn
- If involved, fathers may sign adoption relinquishment documents any time prior to birth or when you sign
- There is a 30-day revocation period in Alabama, so you may withdraw your relinquishment within 30 days after birth or within 30 days after signing relinquishment—whichever comes last