

## Welcome to CARA

This brochure will answer some of the most commonly asked questions about adoption. We hope it will be helpful to you as you go through this important decision-making process. Of course, this is only the beginning. Your Child Adoption Resource Association social worker will be able to help answer your other questions and listen to your concerns.

CARA is a licensed, private, not-for-profit adoption agency. We have programs for the adoption of infants and older children. All of our staff members are professional social workers who will provide personalized services to you.

All our staff understand that this is a emotional and confusing time for you. Helping you make the best plan for your child and providing you with personal service is important to us. We will help you sort out your feelings, and treat you, and the decision you have made with respect.

Your social worker will be available to answer your questions and to provide you with all the information and guidance that you need throughout this process.

## Dear Birth Parents

The Child Adoption Resource Association (CARA) has created three brochures for you. We hope they help you through the process from making a plan for your baby through after the adoption is finalized.

This brochure talks about the second part of the process: The Placement.

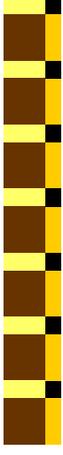
Please ask your CARA social worker for our other brochures:  
**Making A Plan for Your Baby**  
**After the Adoptive Placement**



## Child Adoption Resource Association

2 Union Plaza, Suite 300  
New London Connecticut 06320

Phone: 860-444-0553  
Email: [information@adoptacarakid.org](mailto:information@adoptacarakid.org)  
Web site: <http://adoptacarakid.org>



# Placement Process

*Second in a series of three brochures for birth parents*

## CHILD ADOPTION RESOURCE



## Helping Birth Parents Cope with the Adoption Process

2 Union Plaza, Suite 300  
New London Connecticut 06320  
860-444-0553

## Counseling



During your pregnancy, your social worker will meet with you on a regular basis. She or he will provide you with counseling and support during the process. In the beginning, counseling will focus on helping you to make the best decision for you and your child.

## The Birth Father

If at all possible, the birth father should be involved with counseling. Such counseling may be done as a couple or separately. Birth fathers have the same legal rights as birth mothers, and every attempt to contact him and involve him must be made by the agency.

## Picking Adoptive Parents

Once you decide that adoption is the best plan for you and your baby, your social worker will assist you with picking the right adoptive parents. She will be available to talk with you and discuss the biography albums of the adoptive parents. She will answer your questions about each family's ability to provide a good home.

You may ask to meet the adoptive parents or request pictures and written updates be sent to you after adoption. You may also ask that we keep the pictures and the letters at the CARA office until you decide that you are ready to see them. When you are ready, you can call or write to our office and tell us where to mail them to you.

## After the Baby is Born

It is your choice whether or not you wish to see your child. We will respect your decision. We do, however, encourage you to see and spend some time with your child, as we believe that it will help you.

While in the hospital, you can let the hospital staff know if you want a picture of the baby or any mementos. You can name the baby or ask the adoptive parents to choose a name. After the adoption is completed, the baby's name will be changed to a name chosen by the adoptive parents. Some birth parents and adoptive parents pick out names together.

You can ask the adoptive parents for ongoing pictures of the baby. You can give them pictures of you, or a letter from you for the baby. We encourage you to do this, so that the baby can grow up knowing what you look like and understand more about you through your letter.

Another decision you will make is whether the baby will be placed with the adoptive parents right from the hospital or after a brief period of foster care. In our experience, one to two weeks of foster care can be very beneficial for all involved. It allows you a chance to recuperate from the delivery before signing the adoption papers. Often, birth parents feel like they need just a little extra time after the birth without any pressure to be sure of their adoption plan.

Our agency has foster parents that provide care just for infants awaiting adoption. They all have gone through the home study process and have experience caring for newborns. Both birth parents and adoptive parents may visit and/or call the foster parents

## After You Leave the Hospital

When you and the baby are ready to leave the hospital, your social worker will ask you to sign the necessary paperwork giving the hospital permission to discharge the baby to CARA. Your social worker will bring the baby to a temporary foster family or to the adoptive parents.

Within the next two weeks, you will be asked to sign your application for the termination of your parental rights (TPR). Your social worker will talk with you periodically after the birth to continue your counseling and help you plan the best time to sign the TPR application. Both birth parents (if available) need to sign this application. At the same time that you sign the TPR application, you will be given the option to sign a Reunion Registry Form. If you fill out and turn in the form, you are signing up for the Reunion Registry. This means that you are giving your consent to being contacted by the child after she or he becomes 18 years old.

The application is sent to the Probate Court and a hearing is scheduled. If you have signed your consent on the application, then you do not have to go to court, although you may choose to do so. A representative from CARA will attend the court hearing.

After the court hearing, the judge sets a period of time for an appeal period. Appeal periods can last from one to four months. When both birth parents sign the termination of parental rights application, then the appeal period is only one month. When there is a missing birth father or other complication, then the appeal period is longer. After the end of the appeal period, the birth parents' rights are completely terminated.