

You Have the Right To...

- You have the right to change your mind about your adoption plan at any point before the baby is born.
- After the baby is born and before you have signed legal consent or paperwork for the adoption, you have the right to be informed about the law and your ability to change your mind and revoke your consent to the adoption.

Your Additional Rights...

- Free counseling to help with your decision.
- Continued counseling even after your rights have been terminated.
- Select and meet the adoptive family.
- Choose to place your baby directly from the hospital with a family. Foster care is not required.
- Seek an open adoption including picture and letter updates as well as visits.
- Help from the hospital social worker:
 - about your decision
 - if you are feeling pressured

Connecticut Office

703 Hebron Ave, Second Floor

Glastonbury, CT 06033

860.657.2626

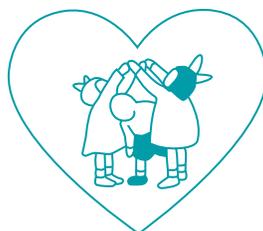
Adoptions From The Heart is a statewide agency serving all parts of Connecticut.

Speak with a counselor in confidence

24 hours a day

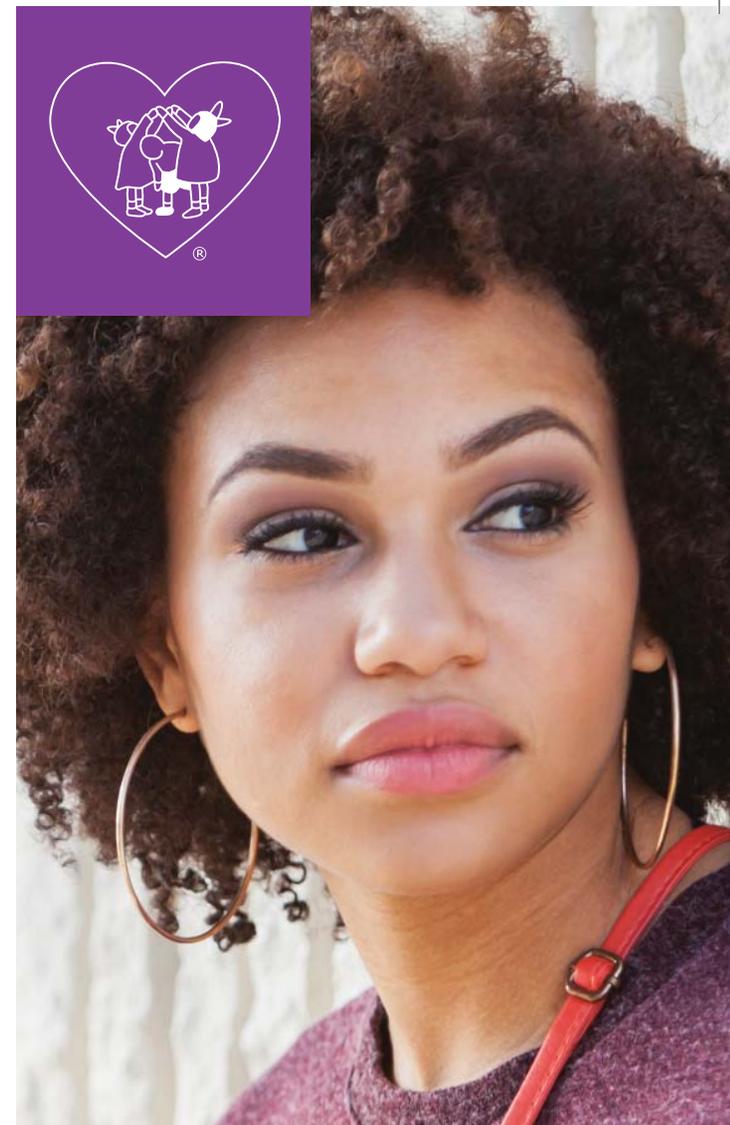
800-355-5500

afth.org/pregnant



Adoptions From The Heart®

AFTH is a private, non-profit, non-sectarian agency licensed in PA, NJ, DE, VA, CT and NY.



**Considering Adoption?
Know Your Rights**



Adoptions From The Heart®

You Should Know

Connecticut Adoption Law States:

1 You can make an adoption plan using the services of a CT licensed private agency. You will be required to sign consent paperwork. The consent cannot be signed until at least 48 hours after birth, giving you time to be certain of your decision.

If the birth father is available, he is also required to sign consent paperwork. The law allows him to sign at any time. If he is unknown, the probate court must publish notice of the adoption plan and his rights.

2 After you have signed the consent paperwork, **the law allows you to change your mind** about adoption and parent your baby. It must be done in writing and delivered to the agency office **prior to the court hearing**.

Other Important Information

- You **cannot** accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.
- Adopting parents living in CT **can pay for pregnancy related expenses** including living and medical expenses.
- If expenses are paid by adopting parents, this does not mean that you must place your baby. If you change your mind, **you do not have to repay them**.
- You have the right to have counseling about whether or not to choose adoption for your baby. This **counseling must be provided, at no cost to you**.
- Adoptions are legal in CT when done through a licensed child-placing agency.



3 If you continue with adoption, there will be a court hearing to terminate your parental rights about a month after you sign the consent paperwork.

You will receive notice of the hearing date about ten days prior to the court date. Your social worker will be at the hearing but you are not required to attend.

For birthparents under the age of 18, state law may require some involvement by a parent or guardian. A lawyer will be appointed by the court to represent you, for free. Please know that we will work with you to develop an adoption plan that is most comfortable for you.

This brochure was prepared for you by

 **Adoptions From The Heart®**

If you need more information after reading this brochure, ask to speak to a hospital or clinic social worker, or call Adoptions From The Heart.

