We offer families who have struggled with infertility an opportunity to seek counseling services with us to see if voluntary adoption is a good option to grow their family. Voluntary adoptive parents receive support and education about the benefits of open adoption. Adoptive families are chosen by the birth parent, and these members of the adoption triad begin to build a relationship. This type of adoption is suitable for families seeking to adopt a newborn and who do not feel prepared to parent a child who has been placed through the child protective system.

Openness in Voluntary/Infant Adoption

Openness in adoption means creating, growing and maintaining a relationship with the child’s birth parents. While it may seem like an intimidating concept, it is important to understand its meaning and how it can work for all members of the adoption triad (the child, the birth parents and the adoptive family).

Openness begins when the birth parent chooses the adoptive family for their child. This journey to finding a family starts with counseling services provided to the birth parents. Through counseling, they are able to identify what is important to them in an adoptive family. They read adoptive family profiles and autobiographies completed by the adoptive family.

Once a family is chosen, the birth parents have the opportunity to meet the adoptive family. Your PCHAS adoption specialist will be present to mediate this exciting occasion. This meeting helps both the birth parents and prospective adoptive family understand and know each other, and allows the adoptive parents and birth family to begin making decisions about the type of open adoption they are ready to commit to.

Supporting Adoptive Families Through the Process

PCHAS believes in the importance of preparing a family for a voluntary adoption. We do this by offering a comprehensive adoption information meeting, conducting a thorough family assessment where information is mutually shared, and providing an adoption seminar once your study has been approved. These various types of exchanges give families the opportunity to hear helpful information and allows them to ask pertinent questions.

Supporting Birth Parents Through the Process

PCHAS assists birth parents by being a safe, non-judgmental support system for women considering an adoption plan. We will provide her and the birth father with counseling services to ensure that they are making the best plan for their child. We are able to provide financial assistance based on the birth mother’s needs and within the context of what is allowed by standards and law. We will be available to offer support during her time of grief and will continue to provide counseling following the placement of the child.
Suggested Reading for Voluntary Adoption

**Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew**

**The Long-Awaited Stork**

**The Spirit of Open Adoption**

**Adoption Within the United States** by Henry, J. M & Pollick, D.

**The Open Adoption Experience**

**Saying Goodbye to a Baby, Volume 1- The Birthparent’s Guide to Loss and Grief in Adoption**

**Children of Open Adoption and their Families**

**Dear Birthmother**

**Secret Thoughts of an Adoptive Mother**

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**Suggested Children’s Adoption Books**

**How I Became a Big Brother**

**A Mother for Choco**

**Tell Me Again about the Night I was Born**

**ABC, Adoption & Me**

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