

**Are you ready to be a parent?**

**Are you considering making an adoption plan?**

**Do you need help with your decision or just someone who will listen?**

The choices you make about your future and your baby's future are very important. You have the right to decide what is best for you and your child.

The Baby Fold has been working with birth parents for over 100 years. We can help you explore the options available to you and assist you in making your decision a reality.

**Some of the concerns you may want to talk about include:**

Medical Care • Parental Rights  
Employment • Parenting • Adoption  
Foster Care • Child Development  
Education • Baby Care • Grief and Loss  
Preventing Future Unplanned Pregnancies  
Decision Making • Living Arrangements  
Building Healthy Relationships • Finances  
Prevention of STD's and AIDS

We want you to feel confident about your decision. We will work with you to make a plan that best fits your needs and the needs of your child.



## OUR PROMISES TO YOU:

- We're here for you as long as you need us, before and after your baby is born.
- We will work with you to help you make the best possible decision for you and your baby.
- Counseling is always free to you and anyone else involved in the pregnancy.
- If you cannot travel to us, we will come to you – anywhere in Central Illinois.

***For further information or to make an appointment, call:***



**The Baby Fold**  
612 Oglesby Avenue  
Normal, IL 61761  
(309) 454-1770

**OUR MISSION:** The Baby Fold embodies Christian principles to serve children and families and help them build safe, loving, and healthy environments.

The Baby Fold is a not for profit private agency, licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The Baby Fold is accredited by the Council on Accreditation and EAGLE, and affiliated with the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We serve all races, nationalities, and creeds.

***IT'S YOUR BABY...  
WHAT ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO?***



**Pregnancy Counseling Services**

Offered by





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### **Are Pregnancy Counseling Services free of charge?**

Counseling is free to you and anyone else involved in the pregnancy. Counselors at The Baby Fold are trained to help you with the difficult decisions you need to make.

### **Can The Baby Fold provide any financial assistance?**

Health insurance or public assistance will usually pay medical expenses. If this is not true for you, your medical expenses related to the pregnancy will be covered if you make an adoption plan through The Baby Fold.

### **Can The Baby Fold help with housing?**

We can assist you in looking for housing, maternity home care, and foster family care.

### **Who will know about my pregnancy?**

Information you share with us is confidential. If you wish, we can help you talk with others involved in planning for your child's future.

### **Will I be expected to place my child for adoption?**

Only if you wish to do so. We want to help you be a parent to your child if that is your choice. We will assist you in finding the resources and information you need so that you can be the best possible parent for your child.

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### **If I make an adoption plan, what will I know about the adoptive family?**

You can actively be involved in the selection of an adoptive family. The amount of information that you will know about the adoptive family is based on the level of openness you desire. You will also receive information about the adoptive family from their family profile which is a photo album that shares the family's history and reasons they are wishing to adopt.

### **Can I meet the adoptive parents?**

Yes, you can choose to do so. Your counselor will tell you about the various levels of openness you can have in adoption. You can choose the level, type, and frequency of contact you desire to have with the adoptive family you select.

### **Will the adoptive parents know anything about me?**

The Baby Fold believes it is important to share information about you with the adoptive parents because your child will ask questions about you as he or she grows. Also, sharing information about you and your family's medical history and social background is important for the care of your child. This sharing of information is especially important if you choose not to have an open or semi-open adoption.

### **Can I see my baby following delivery?**



Yes! We encourage you to spend as much time as you want with your baby prior to placement.

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### **Is it possible for my child to be placed directly with the adoptive family?**

Yes, if you are certain that you want to make an adoption plan for your child. If you have any doubts, your child can live for a short period of time with you or with a foster family that is licensed and supervised by The Baby Fold, while you make your final decision. Visits between you and your child can be arranged during this time.

### **Will I know how my child is doing?**

Yes. If you choose an open adoption you can get this information first hand from the adoptive family. If not, prior to the final adoption hearing, The Baby Fold asks adoptive parents to share photographs and reports regarding your child's progress. The Baby Fold can facilitate contact between you and the adoptive parents via letters and pictures over the years in a semi-open adoption.



### **What must I do legally in order to make an adoption plan for my child?**

In Illinois, you and the father of your child will have to sign surrender documents in front of your counselor or a judge. If the birth father is uncooperative or cannot be located, legal steps can be taken to facilitate this process. You will be assisted every step of the way.

### **Is adoption really a loving option?**

Yes! In making an adoption plan for your child, you are placing the needs of your child above your own. Adoption may be the most loving decision you can make.

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