

Adoption and Pregnancy Care Organizations

In order to advance all available life options to women and men in unexpected pregnancies, it is essential that these organizations establish some best practices related to adoption, including but not limited to: how to present adoption, how to connect clients to adoption professionals, and how to choose adoption professionals for connection. For pregnancy care organizations serving foster and/or adoptive parents, adoptive and foster care parents are deemed as ministry partners and not clients. Below standards that have been affirmed by the Leadership Alliance of Pregnancy Care Organizations (LAPCO):

1. Pregnancy Care Organization assures all pregnancy decision coaching personnel, whether licensed professionals, para-professionals, or peer counselors, are trained to present the adoption option as a realistic alternative without bias.
2. Pregnancy Care Organization identifies adoption referrals that align with the Pregnancy Care Organization's mission, values, and ethical priorities* Ideally, the Pregnancy Care Organization will offer more than one referral option, but less is appropriate to ensure referral aligns with values.
3. Pregnancy Care Organization assures that each adoption referral is made to a reputable, and adequately insured entity and that the adoption is completed by a licensed professional.
4. Pregnancy Care Organization does not accept financial remuneration from any outside adoption professionals.
5. Pregnancy Care Organization does not act as an adoption broker, connecting expecting moms to prospective adoptive parents, unless the Pregnancy Care Organization is licensed as an adoption agency.
6. A client expressing interest in learning more about adoption is provided referrals and a permission based and relational connection is made to an adoption professional.**
7. Pregnancy Care Organization personnel are not permitted to adopt the child of a client or recommend other persons as adoptive parents for the client's child. Exceptions can be made if the match was made independent of the pregnancy care organization and through a licensed adoption professional.
8. In ongoing support for the client considering adoption, pregnancy center personnel remain an advocate for the interest of the client, but do not act as a mediator in any manner between the client and adoption professional.

Procedures on making referrals/connections (if the Pregnancy Care Organization is not also licensed as an adoption agency)

- Relational
 - Goal is to make a trusted hand-off through a genuine relational connection, not hand a list
- Permission-based
 - Client should be in driver's seat and choose the adoption agency connection they feel is best for them
 - She has choice to accept connection
 - She has choice in which connection
 - Obtain permission for adoption professional to reach out to the client with a release form
- Respects confidentiality
 - Only shares information permitted by the client
- Risk Management
 - *Ideally* there will be 3 adoption professional connections provided; less than 3 is permitted if there are not 3 that align with Pregnancy Care Organization's values
 - Uses a form for connection that client signs acknowledging:
 - Adoption organization is not connected to the pregnancy center
 - Services received by adoption organization are not dependent on her willingness to meet with an adoption organization
 - Pregnancy Care Organization is authorized to share client's information with the adoption organization
 - Client releases liability associated with sharing this information
 - Persons providing care through the center are not providing adoption care/support.
- Works with a vetted partner
 - Can be found through Christian Adoption Alliance
 - Places with Christian families only
 - Provides a separate advocate for the birth mother
 - Provides face to face support to expectant and birth mothers
 - Trains/equips adoptive families
 - Helps navigate the open relationship with the adoptive parents
 - Provides post placement support
 - Provides training and support to you as a Pregnancy Care Organization

ICU
Mobile

EMBRACE Grace

LIFE
INTERNATIONAL

CHRISTIAN ADOPTIONS
ALLIANCE

NIFLA

lifeline
children's services

Heartbeat
INTERNATIONAL

American
Pregnancy
ASSOCIATION

Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

FOCUS
ON THE FAMILY

CARE NET