



# **INFANT OF PRAGUE** **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ADOPTION SERVICE**

## **CHOICES**

You are pregnant and unsure about what you want to do. You have choices. Talking to a counselor about the following options can be helpful.

### **PARENTING THE BABY IS:**

- Accepting at least 18 years of responsibility for your child
- Giving up your freedom in order to meet your child's needs
- Having the patience to deal with the 24 hour a day needs of a baby and growing child
- Changing your social life, your sleep patterns, and your daily activities
- Adapting both your education and career goals with a baby in mind

### **ADOPTION IS:**

A loving but difficult choice that means giving birth without parenting your baby.

1. Adoption can occur when a parent decides that adoption is the right choice for their baby. This is called *voluntary adoption*.
  - With voluntary adoption, you can select and meet the adoptive couple before placement of your child and know they have already been evaluated.
  - With voluntary adoption, you can have ongoing contact with your child and the adoptive family over the years. You can know, firsthand, that your child is okay and is being well cared for by parents you selected.
2. Adoption can occur when the Juvenile Court terminates parental rights for reasons of abandonment, severe neglect, or abuse. This is called *court ordered adoption*.
  - With court ordered adoption, your child will probably remain in the same home of the foster parents or relatives that first accepted placement from CPS. The law gives preference to the custodial caretakers and they are asked first if they want to adopt. You do not have a say in who is to adopt your child.
  - With court ordered adoption, you may very well lose all contact with your child. Whether you can have contact or not has a lot to do with how the adoptive family feels about you.

### **ABORTION IS:**

- A decision that is difficult and one that you may feel both relieved and sad about
- Ending the pregnancy
- Having a surgical procedure done early in the pregnancy
- Going through both emotional and physical changes after the procedure