

# DOMESTIC ADOPTION PROGRAM

## IF YOUR PATIENT OR CLIENT IS CONSIDERING ADOPTION, WE CAN HELP.

Spence-Chapin is a non-profit organization with more than 100 years of experience. Our social workers provide free, nonjudgemental counseling to women and couples who are facing an unplanned pregnancy or who have recently given birth and are unsure about parenting. We help families consider and understand all their options: parenting, abortion, foster care, and adoption. For those who choose to make an adoption plan, we provide comprehensive guidance and support throughout the adoption planning process - including the ability to choose and meet the adoptive family, and select open adoption contact, if desired.

### WHY CONSIDER ADOPTION?

Adoption is a very personal choice and there are many reasons people have considered making an adoption plan. Many say it's because they aren't ready or able to parent a baby at this time but want to choose a loving family and stay connected to their child. Others say they cannot provide the special care their child will need and want to find a family who can. Others prefer to make a private open adoption plan instead of getting involved with the public child welfare system. Whatever the reason, we are here to help.

### HOW CAN SPENCE-CHAPIN HELP MY PATIENT OR CLIENT?

If your client or patient is facing an unexpected pregnancy or has recently given birth and is unsure about parenting, we can provide support and guidance while she makes the best plan for herself and her child. Our counselors will help her to consider all of her options, answer all of her questions, and advocate for her. For those who choose adoption, Spence-Chapin will advise her about her legal rights as an expectant parent and provide a free independent attorney at her request. We can also provide assistance for pregnancy related expenses and connect her to resources like prenatal care and health insurance. All our services to expectant and birth parents are free.

#### Our free services are:

- For all women and families, regardless of age, circumstance, or immigration status.
- Accessible as our counselors are available to meet virtually or in-person throughout New York, New Jersey, and Arizona.
- Culturally sensitive and provided in all languages.

### WHAT IF SHE NEEDS MORE TIME TO MAKE A PERMANENT PLAN FOR HER BABY?

We understand that no option is easy. Parenting a newborn can be overwhelming while you are trying to make a plan for the future. Your client or patient may need additional time to think about her options and choices after the birth of her baby. Our Interim (Temporary) Care Program gives her the time to think and to fully explore all her options, while her baby is cared for by a nurturing caregiver in a loving home. This service is free and allows the biological parent to maintain her parental rights while she takes the time to make a decision.

### WHAT IS OPEN ADOPTION?

Open adoption is having ongoing communication and contact between the birth parent/s, child, and adoptive family. You can decide what this looks like - it may include visits, letters, emails, photos, video and phone calls. Birth parents who have an open adoption say that being able to see their child growing up in a happy, loving family is what gives them peace of mind. Some people also decide they are not ready to have ongoing contact right away, or decide to have a closed adoption.

### WHO ARE THE ADOPTIVE FAMILIES?

Spence-Chapin has all types of waiting families! They represent all different backgrounds, races, ages, family structures, religions, etc. They all are eager to adopt and provide a loving family to a child. Expectant and birth parents have the option to meet and connect with the family they select. Waiting families registered with Spence-Chapin live in New York, New Jersey, or Arizona. They have been screened by our social workers and prepared and educated about adoption.

You can browse profiles of families ready to adopt on our website: [sc-youhaveoptions.org/waiting-families](https://sc-youhaveoptions.org/waiting-families)

### WHAT ARE BIRTH PARENT RIGHTS?

If your client or patient is considering placing her baby in an adoptive home, she has certain rights, some of which are guaranteed to her by law. Spence-Chapin will ensure that her rights are respected, including: the type of adoption she wants, open or closed; the receipt of unbiased counseling; non-pressured support while she makes a decision; and the ability to choose and meet the adoptive family.

### IS THERE SUPPORT AFTER THE ADOPTION?

Spence-Chapin provides birth parents a supportive community and a connection to professionals who understand all aspects of adoption. If they choose to, they can receive ongoing and free support from Spence-Chapin, including support groups, individual counseling sessions, and more.