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MYTHS ABOUT ADOPTION

1. **Most birth mothers who place their babies for adoption are teenagers.** Although women of all ages make this decision, most birth mothers who choose adoption are in their early twenties.
2. **Birth parents who place their babies for adoption are abandoning their responsibility and taking the “easy way out.”** There is no easy way out of an unplanned pregnancy. No matter what option the birth parents choose, it will involve emotional pain. Those who choose adoption do so after taking time to carefully consider all their options and the best interests of the child. Adoption is a courageous, loving choice which shows that the birth mother takes seriously the responsibility to be a parent.
3. **An adoptive parent cannot love a child as much as a biological parent can.** Love is not based on biology. The love of a parent comes from preparing for a child and selflessly nurturing and caring for that child.
4. **A birth mother can change her mind and reclaim her child after adoption.** There is a waiting period between the time a child is placed with the adoptive parents and the adoption is finalized. During this period, the birth mother may be able to regain custody of her child. However, once the adoption is finalized the birth mother’s parental rights are terminated and she cannot reclaim her child.
5. **After a child has been placed for adoption, the birth mother cannot have any contact with the child.** While this may have been true once upon a time, adoption practices have changed. Today most birth mothers have some contact with their children. These arrangements are made between the birth mother and the adoptive parents, and will be based upon the needs and desires of all concerned.
6. **Children who were adopted are more likely to have physical or emotional challenges.** No one can predict how a child will turn out. Generally, children who were adopted as infants are as emotionally healthy as children who were not adopted. Children who were adopted when older may have challenges resulting from adverse conditions in their early lives, such as neglect, abuse, or lack of attachment. However, these challenges stem from their early lives, not from the adoption itself.
7. **Birth mothers never recover from the emotional pain of placing a child for adoption.** Birth mothers who choose adoption go through a grieving process. This is a healthy way of dealing with the loss. However, most birth mothers also report finding peace in the knowledge that they did all they could to provide the best possible life for their child.

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