

# **A Checklist for Presenting the Option of Adoption**

## **Prior to meeting with a client:**

- ✓ Assess your own feelings about adoption.
- ✓ Gain an understanding of basic adoption terminology.
- ✓ Get to know local adoption agencies and social workers.
- ✓ Be familiar with explaining different types of adoptions (closed, semi-open, open).
- ✓ Get a basic understanding of your state's adoption laws and what assistance a birthmother can receive from an agency/adoptive parents.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with your center's policies regarding what you can present about adoption.
- ✓ Get general information about father's and grandfather's rights.
- ✓ Remember you are not offering legal advice, just giving general information.
- ✓ Pray that you will be fearless in presenting this option to your clients.

## **During your time with a client:**

- ✓ Listen carefully to the client's stated concerns about the pregnancy situation.
- ✓ Discuss the pros and cons of ALL parenting plans.
- ✓ Allow client to express emotions and feelings about the situation.
- ✓ Listen for objections to adoption and help the client to gather factual information.
- ✓ Don't gush about how happy a family would be to "get" a child.
- ✓ Don't expect the client to make a commitment at your first meeting.
- ✓ Work on building trust and interest in exploring options.
- ✓ Pray that the Holy Spirit will give the client direction as plans are made for the baby.

## **Offer on-going help:**

- ✓ Meet weekly if possible giving homework to consider between meetings. (Decision-Making Packets)
- ✓ Offer to visit adoption agencies with them and use the “Researching Adoption Agencies” worksheet to gather information.
- ✓ Make sure client’s physical, spiritual, and emotional needs are being cared for and help the client find ways to meet those needs if necessary.
- ✓ If possible and appropriate, offer to meet with client and family members to offer support.
- ✓ Offer to pray for and with the client about her plan.

**Keep in mind that we don’t know what God’s plan is for the client or the child, but we can come alongside and offer support as options are considered.**