

1. **I'm pregnant and not quite prepared to be a parent what do I do?**  
You have already taken the first step by contracting ROLAA, if you are considering adoption. We will discuss with you the process of adoption and answer any questions you may have.
2. **I am already a parent, but I cannot keep this BABY due to unforeseen circumstances. Can I place just this child into adoption?**  
Yes, many women who selected adoption already have children. We understand that at "at this time" during "this circumstance" adoption is the best option.
3. **My other children are in state custody (CPS), can I place this baby in private adoption when he/she is born?**  
The decision is yours to make an adoption plan. If you believe it would be best for this child to be placed with adoptive parents and you have an adoption plan, once you sign the relinquishment, the child will be placed in that home.
4. **Do I have to pay a fee to the agency?**  
No fee is charged to both parents. All services are at no cost to you.
5. **Are there services available to me during my pregnancy?**  
Yes, ROLAA can refer you to the appropriate services and assist with some services. ROLAA can legally assist you with living expenses, during your pregnancy, if you meet the criteria.
6. **When do I have to make a decision?**  
You can begin the process now, but you do not have to relinquish your parental rights until 48 hours after the baby is born. You can also have more time, if needed.
7. **What paperwork can I complete before the baby is born?**  
You can complete the Birth Mother Intake, Medical History Report, Adoption Plan, HSEGH reports and others.
8. **I'm afraid my child will think that I didn't love him/her, and that it is the reason I placed him/her for adoption?**  
Your child will always know that he/she was loved. Placing a child for adoption is the most loving thing any mother can do for her child when she knows that she is unable to care for him/her in the manner that the baby needs and deserves. We counsel with all of our birth mothers and adoptive families about how hard this decision is to make. We know that only mothers who truly love their child chose life and chose to guide a child a better life by placing him/her with a loving and stable family.
9. **What kind of adoption can I have?**  
The categories of adoptions that ROLAA assistance in are:  
\* Closed Adoption \* Open Adoption  
\*Semi Open Adoption \* State Adoption
10. **What kind of families would my child be placed in?**  
Children are placed with families who have been approved for adoption by a licensed child placing agency. You tell us your preferences or the agency can select the family. ROLAA works with families in the State of Texas and through our the United States.
11. **What is involved in approving the prospective adoptive parents?**  
An adoptive home study is conducted along with criminal history, child abuse history, medical history, character references, verification that the home is safe, employment, education and other verification.
12. **Can I name my baby?** Yes, certainly you may name your baby on the original birth certificate. However, the adoptive family may rename him/her at the time of adoption. Most adoptive families have had the name picked out for years prior to the birth of the child. When the birth mother feels strongly about the name of the baby, we work with her and the adoptive family to help with a compromise name. Many, but not all, adoptive families are willing to negotiate on a first or middle name of the child.
13. **Will I be able to hold my baby in the hospital?**  
You may hold him/her.
14. **I want my baby to be able to placed with the family I chose as soon as he or she is released from the hospital. Is this possible . What about placing in temporary home?**  
We try to place all our infants direct from the hospital into the loving arms of the family you have chosen. This is a decision we make based on the mothers wishes. The child might be placed in temporary care, if you, as the biological parent, required more time to decide on signing the relinquishment.
15. **Do I get to choose the adoptive parents of my child?**  
Yes, this option is available through Open and Semi Open adoption. When you fill out your Background and Genetic Profile you state what type and description of the family you want for your child . We have families who are waiting to adopt a child. They filled out paper work, too. Each family provides a profile that you can review and make a selection.

16. **Do I get to meet the family?**  
You can speak with any family that you select. That is up to you. We know how important it is for you to be able to know and trust the adoptive family that you have chosen as parents for your child. We will assist with conference call after you have selected the family and it all goes well, the selection will be considered a match.
17. **What information is the adoptive family given about me?**  
We will provide your first name, age, race, a non identifying information from your HSEGH report.
18. **What will I know about the adoptive family?**  
If you selected closed adoption you will know very little. If you selected Open or Semi Open they will have provided a detailed profile of themselves, their home, family members, etc. It includes a letter to the birth mother and pictures.
19. **What would a family like to know about me?**  
They might want to know what your favorite music , food, hobby, etc. They are going to be very interested in your family background, medical history and about your heritage.
20. **What information do you need about the birth father?**  
We need all the information that you have i.e. Name, age, race, height, weight, health, etc.
21. **Does the birth father have to sign relinquishment, too?**  
If the father is unknown or you do not know his whereabouts, the agency will file a suit to terminate his parental rights once you have signed a relinquishment. If you and the birth father are legally married , he is the 'presumed' or 'legal' father. He has to sign relinquishments and, like yours, can not be signed until 48 hours after the birth of the child. If you are married and he is not the birth father, your husband is presumed or legal father and also has to sign the relinquishment. Most 'legal' fathers who are not the birth fathers have no problem relinquishing their parental rights to the child. If you are not married to anyone including the birth father , he is an 'alleged' father and he will be asked to sign a 'waiver of I interest in parental rights' for the child. He can sign this at any time after your first trimester is complete. When he signs this, it becomes irrevocable when you relinquish you rights after the baby is born. If you never relinquish your rights, his 'waiver of interest' can not be used in a court of law against him.
22. **Can I change my mind after I sign the papers?**  
No, the relinquishments are irrevocable when signed. That means, you can not change your mind just because you regret your decision. It is very important for you to understand this prior to signing the documents.
23. **Do I have to go to court?**  
If your child is born in Texas, you do not have to go to court. Other states may have different requirements.
24. **After I sign my paperwork, will I need to have any more contact with the agency?**  
That is up to you. Some birth parents keep contact and some don't. Adoption counselors are always available and you can send or request pictures or letters we will save these for you. If you selected open adoption, it will be up to you and the adoptive family on the level of continued contact.
25. **Is there any place I can register to be reunited with the child (if I choose to do so) after he or she becomes an adult?**  
Yes, you can register with the Central Adoption Registry in the state that the child was born.

