



Understanding Infant Adoption

Presented By La Familia, Inc.

OVERVIEW

**A documented need for
adoption education...**

Your Responsibility in Options Counseling/Education:

- Knowing the choices available
- Have basic knowledge of options
- Providing information
- Making referrals

This Information Might be Presented When:

- Patient presents for medical care and pregnancy test
- Patient with an adoption plan delivers
- Patient delivers and is ambivalent about parenting

Adoption Defined

- A legal process.
- A permanent parent/child relationship that is formed by the transfer of parental rights.
- Formation of the Adoption Triad: adoptee, birth family, and adoptive family...a lasting connection
- Types of adoptions:
 - ❖ Confidential or closed
 - ❖ Semi-open
 - ❖ Open
 - ❖ Kinship

The Relationship Continuum



Federal and State Laws Govern Adoptions:

- Federal –inter-state adoption matters and issues of discrimination in the placement of children; Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- State - all other processes affecting adoption, including birth mother & birth father rights, adoptive parent procedures, access to records and reunion registries

Presenting Options

- Core issues
- Understanding personal values and preferences
- Non-Directive techniques
- Use of sensitive language

Core Issues in Options Counseling/Education

- Information is offered about all options on an equal basis
- Counseling is nondirective & noncoercive
- Patient chooses the option that is best for her

Identify Your Personal Values and Preferences

What Does Nondirective Noncoercive Mean?

- Provider is neutral
- The provider asks questions & provides information that helps patient make an informed decision
- Provider is supportive of patient's choice, including the right to refuse information

Coercion in Adoption

- Patient is pressured or convinced by someone with more perceived power or authority to make a particular decision
- Options are omitted in counseling
- Promise of financial or other benefits or privileges

Adoption Sensitive Language

- Old language perpetuates the “myths” and history of adoption (ie: give baby away, put up for adoption)
- Important to use language that is more respectful of all members of the triad
- Reduces stigma and better represents the positive changes in adoption

Resources

Adoption Service Providers

- Adoption Agencies
- Adoption Attorneys
- Pregnancy Counseling Services
- Facilitators

Community Resources

THANK YOU