

“I knew I had enough love to raise my child, but couldn’t provide the rest.”

BIRTH MOTHER



**St. Mary's
Services**

Maternity counseling and adoption agency

717 West Kirchhoff Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Toll free: 800-252-4152
Local: 847-870-8181
Fax: 847-870-8325

Pregnant and considering adoption?

A HISTORY OF HELPING CHILDREN

St. Mary's Services was founded in 1887 by the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary. Originally an orphanage for homeless children and then a foster care facility, in the 1940s St. Mary's embarked on adoption. Since that time the agency has facilitated thousands of successful

OUR MISSION

Established more than 120 years ago, St. Mary's Services is a faith-based, non-profit organization that serves women experiencing unplanned pregnancies who are considering adoption and families looking to adopt children. Through personalized counseling, education, supportive resources and adoption services, the agency is dedicated to building loving families.

the Illinois home study requirements and assisting parents with foster care licensing. St. Mary's is committed to matching birth mothers with adoptive families to provide every child with a loving home.

adoptions—each providing new beginnings for infants, birth parents and adoptive parents of all races, religions and backgrounds.

Today, in addition to offering maternity counseling, the agency provides preparation and placement services to families looking to adopt a baby. St. Mary's also facilitates international adoptions by coordinating

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A 24-hour answering service is available after hours if you would like to speak confidentially with a St. Mary's counselor.

While our headquarters are in Arlington Heights, counselors travel throughout the Chicagoland area and surrounding suburbs to meet with pregnant women considering adoption and adoptive parents.

Maternity counseling also is available by appointment at our resource centers in Burr Ridge, Chicago, Crystal Lake, Elgin, Frankfort and Waukegan.

For more information call 1-800-252-4152, visit www.stmaryservices.com or e-mail us at information@stmaryservices.com.



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St. Mary's Services is a Christian, non-profit child welfare agency and an affiliate of Episcopal Charities and Community Services. The agency is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (#040234).

MAKING THE BEST DECISION FOR YOU AND YOUR BABY

If you're experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, you might feel overwhelmed, scared, anxious, concerned and unsure of what to do next. Knowledgeable and understanding counselors at St. Mary's Services are here to help you choose the best option for you and your baby.

ST. MARY'S LISTENS

At St. Mary's we don't just talk. We listen too. We are a faith-based agency that provides women experiencing unplanned pregnancies with free, confidential counseling and supportive resources in a non-judgmental environment. Our Illinois-certified counselors offer you support during your decision-making process and throughout your pregnancy.

At St. Mary's you will receive compassionate, caring attention and support regardless of your decision to make an adoption plan or parent your child.



WHAT WE OFFER YOU

- ~ Counseling to help you understand your parenting options
- ~ Explanation of the adoption process, including your rights and responsibilities
- ~ Opportunity for you to choose the baby's adoptive parents—who are required to pass criminal background checks, undergo a comprehensive home study, and be educated in adoption and parenting
- ~ Option to meet the adoptive family and continue contact with them
- ~ Assistance with living expenses, medical bills, maternity clothes, etc.
- ~ Bi-monthly support group meetings for you to talk with others in a similar situation
- ~ On-going post placement counseling to help you reach your life goals

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COMMONLY ASKED ADOPTION QUESTIONS

Q: Is it selfish to want to place my baby for adoption?

A: No. Through adoption, you offer the baby not only life, but the chance for a good future. You also have to decide what is best for you. Your personal goals, such as school or career pursuits, are important ways of taking care of yourself. There is a difference.

Q: Is adoption permanent?

A: Yes.

Q: If I choose adoption, who will pay my bills?

A: St. Mary's will assist you with reasonable pregnancy-related expenses, including medical care, should you need help.

Q: What about the birth father?

A: By law, biological fathers have the same rights as birth mothers. When possible, it is important that the birth father be involved in making an adoption plan for the child. St. Mary's encourages both parties to receive the counseling needed to make the right decision for your child.

Q: Can I have contact with my child after placing him/her for adoption?

A: Yes. At St. Mary's you can choose to have an open adoption, which means that you and the adoptive family have ongoing contact after the baby is born. The level of openness is up to you and with what you are most comfortable.