

Questions to Consider

The many questions and decisions surrounding an unplanned pregnancy can be overwhelming. COBYS birth parent counselors help clients sort through questions like these:

What are my educational and career goals? How would a child fit into those goals? Am I willing to give up or postpone these goals to parent a child?

Am I financially able to provide for a child for the next 18 years?

Would my family and friends be supportive of my decision to parent? To have an abortion? To choose adoption?

Do I enjoy children?

Could I have a child live with me in my current living situation?

How would parenting influence my social life?

Who do I know who will support me through this process?

Would I be able to work through the grief of having another family parent my child?

Do I know how to care for a child?

Does my partner want to have a child? Is our relationship strong enough to parent a child together or would I be a single parent? What does my partner think about adoption?

Who We Are

COBYS Family Services is a family service agency affiliated with the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren. Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS educates, supports, and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential. COBYS ministries include adoption and foster care, family life education, counseling, and a permanency unit. Learn more at www.cobys.org.

How to Contact Us

For free, confidential counseling for an unplanned pregnancy, contact:

COBYS Family Services
1417 Oregon Road
Leola, PA 17540

Phone: 717-656-6580 · 717 -392-0504
800-452-6517

Fax: 717-656-3056

Email: careforkids@cobys.org

www.cobys.org



Services are provided without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, or sex.

Birth Parent Counseling

Pregnant. Now What?



Options in the Face of Unplanned Pregnancy



Becoming a parent is a huge decision for anyone. It becomes more complex when a pregnancy is unplanned or takes place in the midst of challenging circumstances. COBYS Family Services can help.

COBYS Birth Parent Counseling educates and supports individuals, couples, and families facing unplanned pregnancies as they make life-changing decisions about their future and the future of their unborn baby.

Offering Options

Our trained counselors help those facing unplanned pregnancies to arrive at their own answers to tough questions and ultimately decide what is best for themselves and their unborn child. Whether the decision is to parent or seek an adoptive family, COBYS birth parent counselors serve as a source of support and encouragement.

Please contact us for free, confidential counseling. We can help you with one of the biggest decisions of your life.

Choosing to Parent

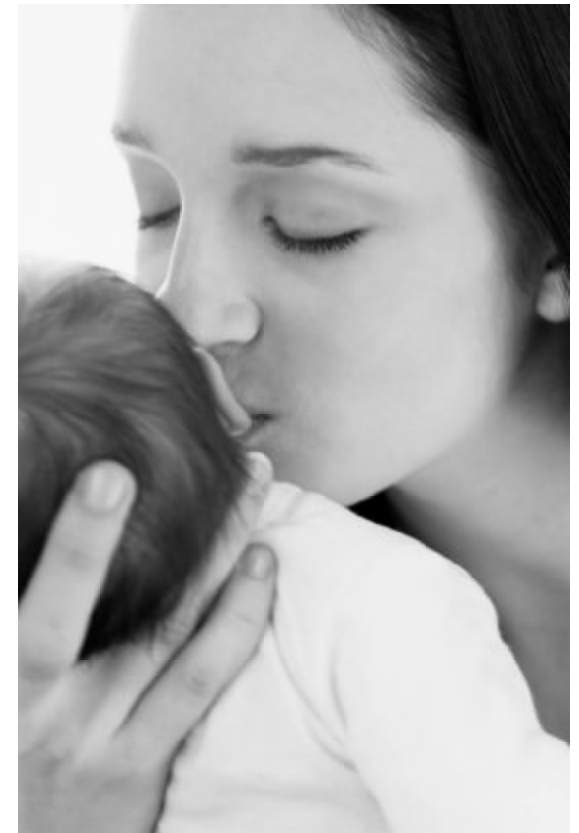
For those who choose to parent their child, COBYS birth parent counselors:

- offer practical and emotional support before and after the birth;
- help identify and develop a network of people and resources to support you in your role as a parent;
- connect new parents to COBYS family life education programs.

Choosing Adoption

For those who choose to make an adoption plan, COBYS birth parent counselors:

- provide scrapbooks of approved adoptive families to help birth parents select the right family for their child;
- help birth parents to discern how open their adoption will be;
- assist in making plans for the day of delivery; and
- prepare birth parents for the grief and loss associated with placing a child for adoption.



Openness in Adoption

In most circumstances open adoption is beneficial for the birth family, adoptive family and, most importantly, the adopted child. COBYS works with birth parents and adoptive families to determine what level of openness is appropriate for their specific situation. Examples of openness can include meeting the adoptive family, receiving photographs from adoptive parents, providing your medical history to adoptive parents, exchanging e-mails, and ongoing contact as the child grows.