

# Adoption Agency Checklist

By Fae Fisher

- Questions you Should Ask
  - Do the agency web site & advertisements make it clear that the agency only does fully open, fully identified adoptions?
  - Is this agency easy to drive to from your home?
  - Do you have a friend who knows or has used this agency and gives it a very high recommendation?
  - Are there other agencies in your local yellow pages under the adoption heading?
  - Does the agency encourage maternity clients to parent?
  - Does the agency also offer free support and guidance in how to parent a child?
  - Did agency staff make it clear that they prefer to do fully open adoptions?
  - Did agency staff accurately define open adoption as involving no secrets between birth and adopting families and ongoing, direct, in person contact between them?
  - Does the agency strongly recommend, or even require, several counseling sessions by their staff before a maternity client starts considering the selection of a family for their child?
  - Does agency require a minimum of 10 hours of training & counseling for all adopting parents before they are approved for placement?
  - Does the agency encourage matching between birth and adopting families who live close enough to each other for easy visits?
  - Does the agency have fully identified resumes by families adopting for the selection process?
  - Does the agency always allow maternity clients selecting a family for their child?
  - Does the agency provide a copy of their fee agreement for adopting parents with a clearly stated refund policy?
  - Does the agency provide a clarification that donations cannot be accepted during the adoption process?
  - Does the original adopting parent fee include money for all maternity client expenses?
  - Is the race of the child expected one of the last questions asked?