

7. Are you able to provide for your child?

### IS INCOME ENOUGH?

Being a good provider for your child does not mean you need to give them designer jeans and cell phones. Being a good provider means you are able to give them food, shelter, and love. Even though that doesn't sound like much, most low-wage jobs do not pay enough to pay for a baby's day care, food, and diapers. If you're considering being a single parent this is very important to think about. Not having enough money does not mean you have to place your baby for adoption, but you do need to decide if you will be able to care for a child.

8. Are you in or have you been in an abusive relationship?

### ABUSIVE PARTNER?

An abusive partner will abuse your child. You cannot bring a baby into an abusive relationship. You must leave for your sake and your child's. If you find you can't leave, place the baby for adoption. Also, if you find you tend to have abusive boyfriends, you need to consider that you may choose another like that in the future. Don't bring a little child into an abusive relationship. Either get out and get help, or adopt.

### THE FINAL DECISION

Deciding to place your baby for adoption can be painful. If you have looked honestly at these questions, you may have found that the best thing for you and your baby is to parent. But, you may have also seen that you are at a stage in your life that makes adoption the right choice for you. Either way, you must make the decision. It is an important and scary decision, but you can make the right choice for you and your child.

For help with your pregnancy and more information on adoption or abortion, please contact:

*A Place for Women in Waipio*  
808-678-3991

Or call the 24-hour help-line at 1-800-395-HELP

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1-1-2011 item no. 9461AM

# IS ADOPTION FOR ME?

## THE BIG DECISION

The decision to place your baby for adoption or not is a life-changing one. Making the decision can be extremely difficult and worrisome. Take a look at the questions and answers below. Answer honestly. The explanations may help you as you decide.

1. Are you trying to decide between adoption or abortion?

### ADOPTION OR ABORTION?

If you are trying to choose between adoption and abortion, it is important to think about yourself and your baby. Adoption gives life and a family to your child. Abortion only gives death, shame, and guilt. If these are your only two choices, choose adoption.

2. Are you currently abusing or have you recently abused drugs?

### DRUGS AND A BABY

If you have used illegal drugs or abused legal drugs in the recent past, you need to ask yourself, "Can I stop forever?" You need to be honest with yourself (not just hopeful). If you cannot stop using drugs, even occasionally, you should not have a baby in your home. Your baby deserves a good chance at life. Adoption is likely the right choice for you at this point in your life.

3. Do you have a solid place to live in the future?

### A STABLE HOME?

You don't have to live in a mansion to be a good parent, but you do need a stable home. If you have your own home or apartment, this can be a healthy place for your baby to grow up. But, if you are "temporarily" living with friends or if you are living with a recent boyfriend, you may want to honestly look into your future and try and see if that will change soon. If not, and your living situation is not stable, adoption is probably a good option for you.

4. Are you at a place where you can be a parent to a child?

### A STABLE MOTHER?

Most people are not ready to be parents but they can figure it out over time. It takes hard work, but it can be done. That said, it is possible you may not be at a place in your life that is emotionally stable enough to allow you to be a good mother. This is a difficult subject, because no one wants to think that they are in a bad place in their life. But if you know privately that there are issues you need to resolve before becoming a parent, then adoption may be the right choice for you.

5. Is the reason you would want to be a parent based on love?

### A GOOD REASON?

For many women, being a mother is something that is exciting (if not a little scary). The opportunity to share love with a child and help them to grow brings out the best in many women. There can also be bad reasons for wanting a baby. If you want to keep a baby because you believe it will save a relationship with your boyfriend, then you might want to consider adoption. Babies rarely "save" a relationship. More often they bring added stress that may cause additional issues. If you want a baby because you need someone to love you, you might want to consider adoption. Babies are unable to show or express love for many months, and at times later in life they still need to be loved even when they are not showing you love.

6. Do you have goals that a baby will make harder to reach?

### MOVING FORWARD?

Babies will change a person's life. If you are currently working toward a serious goal like graduating from high school or college or getting back on your feet after a rough patch, a baby can cause an interruption. While this alone does not mean you must adopt, it is something to consider.