

CHRIS - My Adoption Experience

A Different Perspective

My adoption story begins as many do, with a relationship that seemed to be over or ending as friends. When receiving the call that told me that Shannon was pregnant, it was very hard to believe, and brought many tears and frightened phone calls. Shannon and I tried to work ways out to be together and keep our child, but fights and disagreements put a strain on an already failing relationship. I wasn't told until later that Shannon had contacted an adoption agency, and it was quite a surprise. After much thought and discussion with our parents and friends, Shannon and I decided that this would be the best decision. I had my reasons for this decision, as did Shannon. The reasons behind this kind of decision are unique to every couple, and we are no different. I remember looking at the color binder that the then adoptive-hopeful couple Mike and Mary sent us. I was impressed by the sense of love, happiness, and family that I could see in the pictures and in the words that Mike and Mary wrote about each other. We decided that they would be a good couple to adopt our child. The months up to the birth were full of uncertainty, tears and fears. When the day finally came, it was more difficult than I could ever put into words. Mike and Mary, while having their own thoughts and joys, were very supportive and kind. It was a comfort that they seem to understand how difficult it was for us, and gave us some time together with our son.

Life after that day was very difficult for a while. Something that seemed to be the right decision was questioned often. It was a difficult decision at a difficult time, but the decision that provided our son a loving, complete family, which was very important to me. Still there are days that are difficult for me, and I long for the day that I can meet my son. I suppose some people could just turn away and never look back. However, I can't be like that. Mike and Mary send pictures, letter and a card every year around Christmas. I still look forward to receiving them, and can't wait to see how he has grown.

My experience with the Goldstein's has been very positive one. I can't imagine how difficult it would be to be the "middle men" between Mike and Mary, and myself. They have provided piece of mind knowing that my letters and my mom's Christmas

ornaments will make it to Mike and Mary, and my pictures and card will get to me. The Goldstein's have been completely trustworthy and great to deal with.