

Problem Pregnancy When Pregnancy is a Problem

An unexpected or unwanted pregnancy can be a big problem, both for the mother-to-be and her family and friends. She may be unprepared to be a mother, personally, socially or financially. She may find little help readily available and few people with the right kind of advice.

But expectant mothers in distressing circumstances are no different from other mothers...all want the best future for their children. Here is where the Division of Human Services can be of assistance. There are many options open to those who call for help.

It seems that there are many decisions to be made all at the same time. A worker is ready to counsel you about what may be best for you, your baby and your family. These workers have had wide experience in helping others with problems similar to your own. There is no set course of action; each person is treated individually and you will make your own decisions.

Call the Division of Human Services today. Your call does not put you under any obligation and you can get your many questions answered.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 and Section 1808 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C 622(b)(9), 671(a)(18), 674(d) and 1996b, the South Carolina Department of Social Services is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color and/or national origin when making foster care or adoption placement decisions.

South Carolina Department of Social Services

1535 Confederate Avenue
P.O. Box Box 1520
Columbia, SC 29202
Toll Free: 1-888-CARE-4-US

Region I Adoptions (Upstate)

Anderson, Abbeville, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg

714 N. Pleasantburg Drive, Suite 300
Greenville, SC 29607
Telephone: (864) 282-4730
Toll Free: 1-800-868-6595

Region II Adoptions (Midlands)

Aiken (803-502-1826), Bamberg, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, McCormick, Richland, Saluda, Union, York (803-329-9626)

Children's Center of South Carolina
2638 Two Notch Road, Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29204
Telephone: (803) 898-8980
Toll Free: 1-888-711-7095

Region III Adoptions (Lowcountry)

Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg (803-515-1852)

3346 Rivers Avenue, Suite F
North Charleston, SC 29405
Telephone: (843) 953-9750
Toll Free: 1-800-922-1518

Region IV Adoptions (PeeDee)

Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg

181 East Evans Street, BTC 112
Florence, SC 29506
Telephone: (843) 661-2495
Toll Free: 1-800-763-6637

DSS Brochure 2402 (SEP 07) Edition of SEP 00 is obsolete.

Problem Pregnancy

Here's Help

Division of Human Services Foster Care and Adoption

1535 Confederate Avenue
P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, SC 29202-1520
Telephone: (803) 898-7561
Toll Free: 1-800-922-2504

Questions & Answers

I'm pregnant and need help. What can I do?

Call us. A worker will talk with you about your situation. The worker will understand that you have many questions about yourself, your baby and your family. There will be help in thinking things through but you will make your own decisions.

Why should I go to an agency?

You will receive helpful, supportive services. You will have time to talk over your problems with someone who has helped others in similar situations. You will not be forced to make quick, impulsive choices for yourself or your child.

Our counseling services are free. We also can help with hospital expenses and maternity home fees.

What are my options during pregnancy?

Several choices are open to you. You may want to stay at home and continue your education and you may need help with arranging for prenatal care and hospital care at delivery.

Or, you may wish to go to a maternity home and you may need assistance in making these arrangements.

Perhaps another plan is available to you through your family. It is your decision, but we can help. We will not contact anyone without your knowledge and consent. We will gladly talk with your family if you feel this would be helpful.

Who pays the medical expenses?

If you are unable to bear this cost either through personal funds, health insurance or the assistance of the father of the child, the Division of Human Services will try to assist you. This assistance does not in any way commit you to place your child for adoption. Should you decide to parent your child yourself, there is no requirement to repay.

What happens after the baby arrives?

You may decide to parent your child yourself. Or you may decide that it will be best for the baby to have an adoptive family.

We can provide short-term boarding care for the baby while you are deciding about adoption.

If you choose to parent your child yourself, workers will provide information about community resources available to you.

What if I decide on adoption?

We can accept custody of your child directly, usually allowing you to avoid a court appearance.

There are prepared, waiting families from which to choose the best home for each child. You may state your preferences in regard to the type of family for your child; however, South Carolina Department of Social Services cannot and will not consider birth parents' racial, color or national origin preferences in placing their child.

The worker most familiar with your situation will help in choosing one of the waiting families. Even if the baby comes with health problems, we can help make good, permanent plans.

Non-identifying information about you, including pertinent medical facts, will be given to the adoptive family to share with your child. You may update the information we have about you at any time.

How is the adoptive family chosen?

In addition to the traditional method of family selection mentioned above, other options are available. Your worker can present you with non-identifying descriptions of several families and you may choose to have some input into the type of family you think would be best for your child. In some instances you may be able to arrange to have some ongoing contact through the agency with the family you select.

Decisions in these matters will be made with the support and counsel of your worker.

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