

Choose Life License Plate

Promoting Adoption in Texas



Testimony of Kimberly Guidry Speirs and Michael Francis Speirs

Home City: Austin, TX

Personal Story:

My story regarding infant adoption is two-fold: I used to take hotline calls for women in crisis pregnancies. We never told them what to do, just provided them with the pros/cons of parenting, abortion, and adoption. When I'd get to adoption, the women would always say they weren't interested. I'd say "That's fine ... what about OPEN adoption?" Once they learned that with open adoption they had the power to choose the adoptive parents and possibly even be involved in the child's life, they would do a 180. ALL of them ended up asking for phone numbers of open adoption agencies when we'd discuss that. I had learned about open adoption as a result of attending a five-hour course on the subject in Kentucky. It was great to be able to provide these women information on a choice that they never even knew existed.



I was lecturing at the University of Louisville in Kentucky when I was called out for an emergency message. I learned that a birth mom selected me to adopt her baby. Twenty-three hours later, she delivered Michael. I was there when he was born. She and I talked afterward and she told me that she was afraid I'd think she was a horrible person for bringing a baby into the world under those circumstances. I told her that was the furthest thing from my mind. Her selfless act answered 15 years of prayers for me and brought a new little life into the world. She was—and still is—a hero to me. She has three other children, and I take Michael to visit them about once a year. I send her photos every few months and talk with her on the phone occasionally. She's now pursuing her degree and is getting her life on track.

The *Choose Life* license plate depicts two of the three legal choices available to women facing crisis pregnancies. It does not say, "Don't have an abortion," but rather it simply promotes the parenting/adoption choices. How can anyone be opposed to that? To me, anything that provides women with additional choices is a logical, reasonable, and good thing.