



ADOPTION-SENSITIVE CLINICAL CARE



Welcome to your April ASCC update!

This month, we are focusing on a vital but often overlooked aspect of adoption-sensitive care: the role and experience of the birth father.

Even when the expectant or birth mother is the primary patient in a hospital setting, birth fathers often play a significant role in the decision-making process. Developing the skills to navigate this dynamic, while maintaining a consistent, patient-centered focus on the mother, is essential for providing comprehensive support.

Training Highlight: Understanding the Birth Father

In **Module 4** of our *Understanding Infant Adoption 7* curriculum, we explore the legal, emotional, and clinical nuances of engaging expectant fathers. Key learning highlights include:

- Legal and practical issues such as paternity, consent, and the role of putative father registries
- Tips for creating a supportive environment that validates the father's concerns and emotional journey
- Case study application to explore the father's influence on decision-making and to support his rights in the overall adoption process

Access this content and build your skills with FREE CMEs, IPCEs, and Social Work CEs:

1.5-hour course

2.5-hour course

4.5-hour course

6.5-hour course



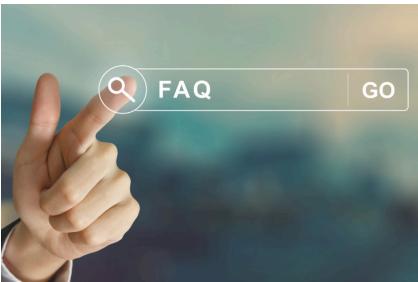
Featured Resource: Dispelling Common Birth Father Myths

Providing comprehensive, patient-centered care involves navigating the unique legal and emotional landscapes of everyone involved in an adoption plan. This resource is designed to help you address frequent questions and societal misconceptions that birth fathers may encounter. Equip your

Get the Resource



Earn Free CME/CE



team with the tools to support all birth parents with dignity and accuracy.

Free Supplemental Training: Birth Father Experience

This training offers a first-person exploration of the birth father's journey. By moving beyond policy and into the lived reality of these men, hospital-based professionals can develop a more empathetic, sophisticated approach to care. Through candid video interviews with birth fathers, participants will bear witness to the complexities of crisis, loss, and lifelong remembrance.

ASCC Frequently Asked Questions

Whether you're staffing a busy floor or looking to spark change in your local hospital, you may wonder how the ASCC training resources work.

Visit our FAQs page to:

- Learn why ASCC is vital even if your hospital doesn't see many adoptions.
- Get the logistics on registration, state-specific legal info, and how to access our no-cost training modules.
- Discover how to move staff from "clinical neutrality" to genuine empathy and how to handle the "we're too busy" hurdle.
- See the impact of our curriculum and how hospitals can help ensure weekend staff and new hires aren't left behind.

Explore the FAQ

Submit a Question

Provider Perspective: Bridging the Support Gap for Birth Fathers



Birth fathers navigate a distinct emotional journey that is often overlooked. Proactive engagement and simple gestures of inclusion from a healthcare provider or team can help birth parents navigate this significant life decision as a team, provided this inclusion is welcomed by the mother and clinically appropriate.

OB/GYN Julie Taylor reflects:

Watch Video

"Especially as someone who takes care of the majority of women, making sure that I include [birth fathers] in the role of, how are you feeling too? ... It is something that you have to remember and not forget."

Birth Parent Perspective: Honoring the Father's Journey

Birth fathers often experience the same deep, lasting grief as birth mothers. Hearing their stories helps dismantle the misconception that their involvement is unnecessary.

Paul, a birth parent, reflects on the bittersweet experience of holding his daughter at birth while supporting an adoption plan.

“ We stayed in touch and then, close to delivery time, I flew out there and stayed with that family and waited for delivery. That moment is very precious; I got to hold my daughter, do things like that. And after that I was a dad in a way that was completely removed from any expectation I had about being a dad. So it makes me sad and a little bit thankful also. ”

Adoption Professional Perspective: The Birth Father's Role

In the complex landscape of adoption, birth fathers are often a missing piece of the conversation. Navigating the intersection of legal rights, patient autonomy, and the biological mother's wishes requires a nuanced approach.

Agency Director of Adoption Programs Saara McEachnie discusses the critical importance of recognizing the birth father's role in the overall process while ensuring the birth mother remains the driver of the hospital experience:



[Hear More from Saara](#)

"Birth fathers...are very much a part of this process and the making of this child... There's going to be varying degrees of what the right of the birth father is, and so understanding what that is and how he could be involved [in the hospital setting] is going to be very, very important without putting any type of prejudice or preconceived notions about what a birth father is or who a birth father is not."

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