

Background Talking Points for the Adoption story.

- Adoption Summary 1
 - About 1.5 years ago, Catholic Charities contacted us that a birthmother had selected us and wanted to meet. She recently had been released from jail on drug charges. She was due in 1-2 weeks so we had to quickly setup a meeting with her and her boyfriend so we all could meet and ask questions. This was our first birthmother who took interest in us.
 - We had been slowly buying baby clothing assuming one day the time would come. Going from Not parents, a slow waiting game to parents in in a short 2 weeks not months was an emotional rollercoaster.
 - When the time came and the baby was delivered. The birth mother told us to spend the night with the baby and take care of her because she was at the time confident she had made the right choice by picking us. The nurses throughout the night during regular post pregnancy testing told us how they confident the birth mom would not change her mind. We had started to let our emotional defenses down after spending the night. We paused regularly to take pictures and videos. The next morning I went to grab the car seat out of the car and when I came back the doctor told us she needed to do another checkup on the baby. When she was finished with the exam and while still holding the baby, she told us the birth mom had changed her mind and that the baby would live with an aunt. We left with an empty car seat. I remember how much we cried in the elevator down to the parking lot and how quite the car ride was on the way home.
 - We came home to an empty baby room setup and ready to go. I was able to emotionally come down quicker than Emily. I don't think we will ever fully recover. It got easier around 4 months later.
- Adoption Summary 2
 - Catholic Charities again contacted us that a birthmother had selected us and wanted to meet. This was I want to say 6-7 months after the failed first attempt. However, this was short lived as the birthmother missed three meetings we had waited for her at and stopped contacting Catholic Charities all together. Another emotional rollercoaster and another letdown.
- Adoption Summary 3
 - Steve (Dad), Emily (Mom), Cosette (Daughter) (Named after the Les Miserables character)
 - Took her home from hospital 3 days after she was born. Because of the issues before we wanted to put her in transitional care in case the birthmother changed her mind. Catholic Charities suggested this as well. The birthmother did not want that so we took her home.
 - Birth parents were very young 13-14 years old
 - The birthmother has about 1 month to change her mind so we had about a month with "baby" in our home. You need to provide a loving home for the baby in your care but also "guard your heart" as Catholic Charities says.
 - Once the emotional, nerve-racking month past and the birthparents signed away their rights, it was 99% a done deal. We had to go through 6months of Catholic Charity visits/ home studies for everything to be finalized.

- In August 2017 we finalized the adoption in
- Cosette is 7months old and growing at hyper-speed. She loved going on walks in her stroller and wearing anything with dogs on it.
- We cannot explain in words how happy we are and how much we love her.
- We are planning to enter the adoption cycle again in about 1-2 years.