



HELPFUL HINTS FOR NETWORK CLIENTS

The relationship between each Client and the Members of the Network will naturally be as unique as the individuals involved. While there are no hard and fast guidelines to follow, these suggestions may be helpful to you as you benefit from the services of the Network.

If you are planning to live with a Nurturing Family...

- *Try to build, from the start, an open and honest relationship with your Nurturing Family. If you need to talk with them about a concern, please do so. In opening their home to you, they are offering you their support and understanding as well.*
- *To create a relaxed and comfortable environment, we have suggested that your Nurturing Family consider you a unique family member rather than a guest in their home. We encourage you to “pitch in” and help when you see an opportunity to do so. The Nurturing Family will appreciate any assistance you offer.*
- *We ask that you be attuned to the needs of your Nurturing Family. There may be times when they might appreciate a little privacy; as comfortable as you may be with one another, you will each need time to yourselves. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected in the same way.*
- *We suggest that you agree to meet with your Nurturing Family about one week after you have joined them to discuss any questions you each may have. In most instances, the family’s concern for the Client, combined with your appreciation of their generosity, will already have formed the basis for a strong relationship.*
- *Please let your Nurturing Family know in advance of your transportation needs. They have offered to help you travel to your doctor’s office, religious services, and other essential errands. They are not expected, however, to become a “taxi service”.*
- *From the beginning, it would be helpful to establish guidelines about lifestyles on which you all agree. Ask your Nurturing Family what they expect of you as a family member. Perhaps they would welcome your assistance in helping around the home or watching their children. We suggest that you talk over each of the following topics with them:*
 - *Household chores*
 - *Use of the telephone*

- *Use of the television*
 - *Smoking rules*
 - *Visits by family and friends (male and female)*
 - *Kitchen privileges*
 - *Sleeping hours*
- *If there are younger children in the Nurturing Family, please ask the parents how they would like you to treat the children. If they ask you to discipline the children in their absence, be sure they have also told the children of your responsibility.*
 - *We have taken care to thoroughly screen our Nurturing Families. We have reviewed their backgrounds and shared with them the information which we believe is essential to their opening their home to you. However, if any concern should arise after you move into a Nurturing Home that makes your situation there uncomfortable, we ask that you notify our Manager of Nurturing Homes immediately. Whether it be a health condition, a personality trait, or a difference in lifestyles, we do not want any Client or Nurturing Family to continue under trying circumstances.*

If you enroll at a Network college or are employed by a Network Member...

- *The Nurturing Network respects the confidentiality of the relationship you will have with your employer or academic institution. Generally, after the initial introduction and arrangements have been made, the Network need not be involved as an intermediary. However, if we can be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.*

In general, as a Client of the Network...

- *Take good care of yourself. More than ever, proper diet, sufficient rest and exercise are all keys to ensuring your well-being and that of your baby. The changes which you are undergoing might be new to you. If you would like someone with whom you can share your health concerns, we suggest you call a member of our staff, speak with your physician, or talk with the mother of your Nurturing Family.*
- *Remember that the Network has offered you its support and services so that you may continue to build your future as you prepare to give life to your child. Please know you can call our offices at any time if we can help in any way.*