HOW TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY

PATERNITY AFFIDAVIT

COMPLETE FOR FREE

Can be completed at the hospital

*Blank voluntary paternity affidavits* can be obtained at the local child support office or County Recorder office

Form is submitted to the Bureau of Health Statistics, who approves it and adds the father's name to the birth certificate

Can be completed for children of *any age*

NEED TO BRING

*One current U.S. government-issued ID*

- driver's license
- state photo ID
- United States passport/visa
- work photo ID
- current school photo ID
- military ID
- permanent residence card
- employment authorization card

OR 2-3 of the following

(names and current addresses must match)

- expired driver's license (plus one other document in the same name)
- Non-US passport (plus one other document in the same name)
- income tax return
- rent or mortgage receipt
- car title or registration
- court documents
- criminal record
- insurance policy
- utility bill
- hospital bill
- Medicare, Medicaid, or medical card

View complete acceptable ID list at [www.goo.gl/cC3F8l](http://www.goo.gl/cC3F8l) (case sensitive)

OTHER OPTIONS

COURT ORDER

Paternity can be legally established by a court order. You may have to hire a *private attorney* to obtain a court order for *visitation or custody.*

*Child Support Recovery Unit (CSRU)* can ask the court to establish paternity, child support, and medical support; then CSRU enforces the court order.

MARRIAGE

If the mother was married at *conception or birth or anytime between* conception and birth, that man is the legal father.

If the child's mother was married to a man who is not the biological father, a *court order* must be issued to disestablish the legal father.
Why should I establish paternity for my child?

Paternity can be established through marriage, paternity affidavit, or court order.

**LEGAL BENEFITS**

**Paternity Rights**
- Establishing paternity may allow for the legal father to have visitation rights, custody rights, and legal say in decisions.

**CHILD ACCESS**
- Children may have access to the legal father’s medical insurance, medical history, Social Security benefits, disability insurance, child support, inheritance, pensions, and veteran’s benefits.

**DECREASED RISKS**
- Lack of father involvement may lead to increased risk of disease, learning disabilities, substandard academic achievement, behavioral problems, or teenage pregnancy.

**MENTAL BENEFITS**

**Fewer Problems**
- Fathers who provide for their children (economically and emotionally) may have children who do better emotionally and have fewer behavioral problems.

**IN Volvement**

**Child’s Life**
- Fathers who establish paternity at the hospital are more likely to be involved in their child’s life.

**WELL-BEING**
- Establishing paternity may lead to increased child support payments and visitation, which positively impact child mental health and well-being.