

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



View complete acceptable ID list at www.goo.gl/cC3F8I
(case sensitive)

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



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.

Voluntary Paternity Affidavit Program

www.childwelfareproject.hs.iastate.edu/paternity-affidavit-program/

PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT

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.*

INVOLVEMENT

WELL-BEING

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

CHILD'S LIFE

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



This information is provided under the partnership between Iowa State University's Child Welfare Research and Training Project and the Iowa Department of Human Services Child Support Recovery Unit.