

# Benefits of Establishing Paternity



## For the Child

A child receives several benefits by establishing legal paternity. From support, care, and medical coverage from both parents, to the opportunity to have an extended family.

Forming extended family relationships can create a lasting and positive bond with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. This will give your child the opportunity to learn about both parents' family history. Establishing paternity creates a better life outcome for your child that can include receiving Social Security survivor's benefits, possible veteran's benefits, and inheritance rights to their father's estate.

## For the Mother

Establishing paternity gives the mother the right to receive child support and medical coverage. Child support will help to raise a child and support their many needs growing up. Receiving child support helps alleviate some stress associated with being a single parent.

## For the Father

Establishing paternity gives the father legal rights to his child. It creates a foundation to build a relationship with his child not only by paying child support, but also by being a part of the child's life. Once paternity is established, the father will have an opportunity to share decision making regarding medical care, share financial expenses of child rearing, and an opportunity to petition the court for access and visitation.

## For Both Parents

The voluntary acknowledgment process allows paternity to be established for children before age 18 and streamlines the process for creating a legal father. The benefits include:

- Less intimidating process than involving the court
- Same legal effect as a court-ordered paternity
- Less intrusive for parents who are certain of the biological father's identity

The Hospital Paternity Program offers an Acknowledgment of Paternity for parents to sign at the hospital after their child is born. This voluntary process is free, easy and simple for parents who want to establish paternity for their children.

## Rights and Responsibilities

This paternity determination is not a custody order, but it provides a basis for determining issues related to legal decision making, parenting time, and afford the parents all responsibilities and rights provided by Arizona law. For more information, call the Hospital Paternity Program at 1.800.485.6908.

Website: [www.azdes.gov/dcass/](http://www.azdes.gov/dcass/)

Contact Us: 1.800.882.4151 or 602.252.4045

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