



What are my responsibilities as a parent?

Single parents have the responsibility for the care and welfare of their child. Establishing paternity gives the father all the legal rights and responsibilities afforded to a father of a child that is born within a marriage.

By establishing a legal father for a child, the parents have taken a first step in securing their child's future and well being.

If you have questions about paternity, blood or genetic testing, call the Hospital Paternity Program at 1-800-485-6908.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
• Under Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI & VII), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008; the Department prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics and retaliation. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy, contact 602-252-4045; TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1.
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DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Division of Child Support Services
Hospital Paternity Program

Unmarried Parents: Ask Yourself



Is it important for your child to know both parents?

Do you want the father's name on your child's birth certificate?

If you said **YES**, to these questions you should consider paternity acknowledgment.

Can a child have a legal father if the parents are unmarried?

If the parents are not married when the child is born, the child does not have a legal father.

Unless the father becomes the legal father, the child may miss out on many things that children of married couples take for granted. The benefits that children of married couples receive such as financial support, social security benefits, health insurance, and inheritance rights, may be denied a child born to unmarried parents.

The father's name will not appear on the child's birth certificate unless he has been established to be the legal father of the child.

How can the father become the legal father of a child?

Fortunately, there is an easy way for unmarried parents to provide a legal father for their child and that is by acknowledging paternity.

The word paternity means the relationship of a father. To acknowledge paternity means to establish a legal relationship with the father of a child.

Who should acknowledge paternity?

All unmarried parents should consider acknowledging paternity.

Establishing paternity is important regardless of whether the parents stay together or not. Every child deserves to be supported by both parents and has a right to both parents' social security benefits or veterans benefits in the unlikely event that one parent dies or becomes disabled. Health insurance can only be obtained by the legal mother or father of a child.

How can we acknowledge paternity?

You can complete a form at the hospital or you can contact the local child support office at a later date.

Paternity acknowledgment will be explained to you in the hospital when your child is born. The paternity form will be signed by both parents when you complete your child's birth certificate.

If you do not complete the acknowledgment at the hospital, you may take it with you and complete at a later date and return it to the Hospital Paternity Program.

What if we would like to have genetic testing before establishing paternity?

If unmarried parents wish to have paternity established through genetic testing, they may complete the Application for IV-D Services/Genetic Testing Agreement form at the hospital. That form will be sent to the local child support office who will contact you about genetic testing. For more information on paternity, child support or genetic testing, please call 1-800-485-6908.

